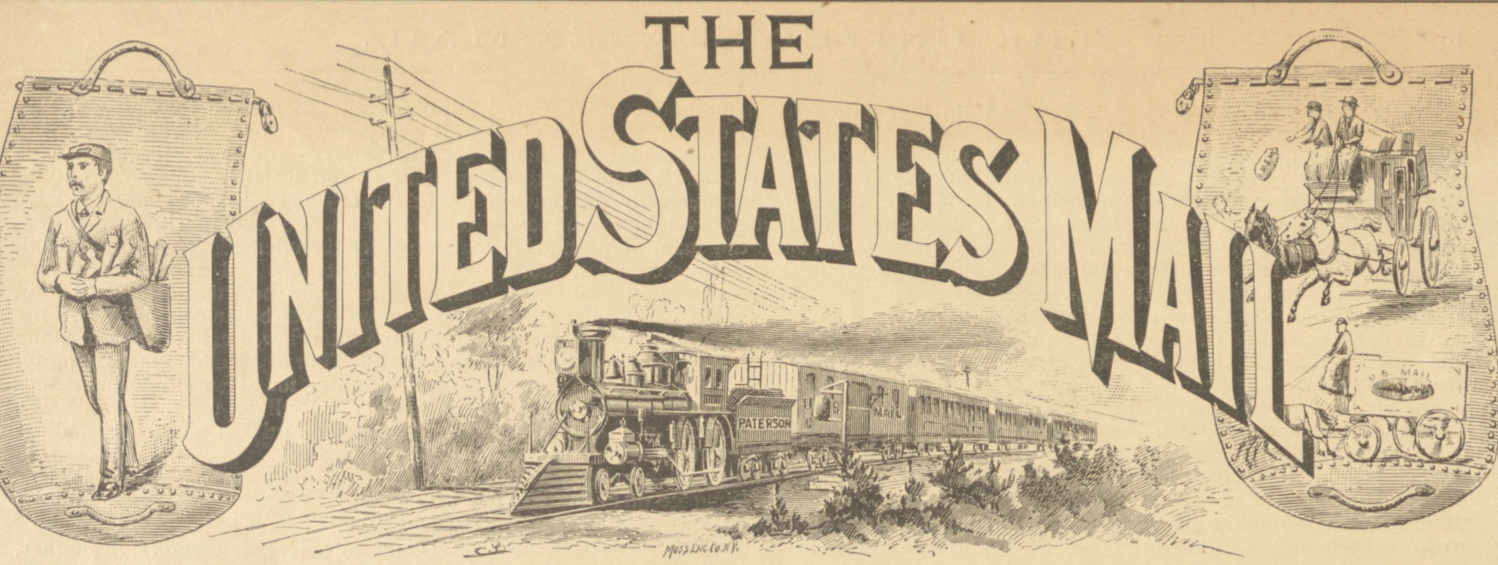
THE UNITED STATES MAIL



Vol. I. CINCINNATI, OHIO, NOVEMBER, 1884. No. 2

"A Quiet Reading."

The illustration upon this page is very suggestive. The young lady before you is supposed to have received a letter from one she loves, and in order to enjoy it fully, to drink in all its sweet words of confidence and affection, she seeks a quiet retreat away from the household, and there breaks the seal and lets her eyes and heart enjoy the feast undisturbed. How natural this is, especially with women. They are more eager, more devoted, more loving, and far more true, than men, and when a message of love comes to them through the mails, they hurry off to enjoy "A Quiet Reading."

The artist has done well his part. Poetic fancy and true artistic skill have created a fine result, and THE UNITED STATES MAIL is happy to present such a creation upon its first page.

New Way to Pay Old Debts.

"I see a mail-car was burned on theOmaha Road night before last, and all its contents destroyed."

"You don't tell me! Where was it bound?"

"Going north to Ashland and Bayfield, Wisconsin."

"To Bayfield? Good, good!"

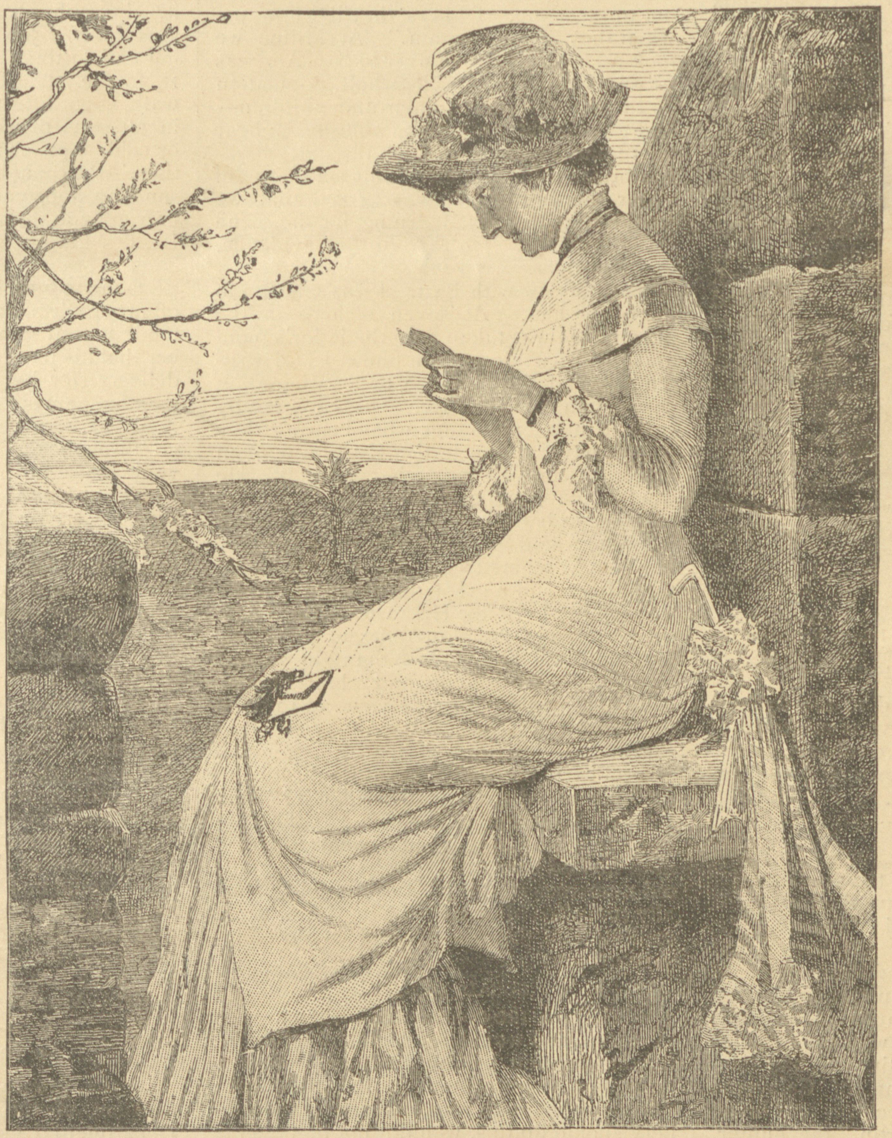
"Good? What on earth is there good about it?"

"Why, you see, I owe a man in Bayfield a little amount, and I've promised to send it to him till he won't take promises any longer."

"What's that got to do with it?"

"Everything, everything. I'll go right off now and write asking him why in tunket he doesn't send a receipt for that money that I sent him last—last— What day did you say that mail-car was burned?"

OUR next issue will contain a portrait of Senator N. P. Hill, of Colorado.



A QUIET READING.

"BLACK BART."

The Famous Mail Robber of California.

(CONTINUED FROM NO. 1.)

was enjoying it rather than a highwayman. He looked anything but a stage robber. He was quick in his movements and had muscular and symmetrical limbs. Ware introduced me to him by the name of Hamilton, that being the name I gave him. I shook hands with Bolton and asked him if he was Mr. Bolton, the mining man. He said, "Yes, I am." I then told him that I had a matter of importance relating to some mines which I wished to consult him about, and asked him if he would spare a few moments with me. He said, "Certainly," and we walked together down Bush to Montgomery street, then to California and Sansome, bringing up at Wells, Fargo & Co.'s office. We went up-stairs to the superintendent's office. I introduced him to Mr. Hume, who requested him to be seated, saying that he wished to have a little talk with him. Mr. Hume commenced by inquiring about his business. Bolton said he was a mining man. Mr. Hume asked him where his mine was situated. He said in Nevada, on the California line. On being closely pressed he was unable to give either the name of the mine or the exact locality. He then began to get a little excited, and great drops of perspiration stood out on his forehead and nose. Said he, "I am a gentleman, and I don't know who you are. I want to know what all this inquiry is about." Mr. Hume told him if he would answer his questions satisfactorily he would tell him his reasons for asking them. I will state here that when Black Bart committed the robbery he dropped

A PACKAGE THAT HAD A BLOOD STAIN

on it, and while we were in Mr. Hume's office I noticed that on Bolton's right hand there was a piece of skin knocked off, about the size of a ten-cent piece. I drew Mr. Hume's attention to this, and he asked Bolton how it occurred. He replied that he struck his hand against a car while he was getting off the train at Truckee. He was asked a great many questions, many of which he could not, and others he would not, answer, and at length grew indignant. He said it was the first time in his life that his character had ever been called in question; that he was a gentleman, and he would refuse to answer any more questions. Mr. Hume then sent to the City Prison for Captain Stone, and upon his arrival a hack was summoned, and Captain Stone, Mr. Hume, Black Bart and myself proceeded to Bart's room at No. 37 Second street, leaving detective Thacker and Captain John Curtin, of Morse's Agency, at Wells-Fargo's, to await their return. This was about eight o'clock in the evening. The interview at Mr. Hume's office lasted about three hours. Bolton said he was 47 years of age, and a native of Jefferson County, New York. On arriving at the room we immediately proceeded to search for evidence. We found a large trunk, two valises, three or four suits of clothes, among them a suit answering the description of those worn by the man who robbed the stage near Copperopolis. In one of the pockets I found another handkerchief bearing the same mark as that found at the scene of the robbery, and perfumed with evidently

THE SAME PERFUME.

Upon opening the trunk they found a lot of shirts, cuffs and collars, all having the same laundry mark, and also a letter, written by Bolton, the writing in which corresponded with the handwriting of the doggerel written by the robber on one of the express company's waybills and left on the treasure-box a year ago, and would leave no doubt in the mind of any one that they were written by the same person. On being spoken to about the marks on the handkerchief found at the scene of the last robbery, he said: "I am not the only one whose things bear this mark. Others have their washing done at the same place. Somebody may have stolen the handkerchief from me, or I may have lost it and some one else found it." The officers told him that the handkerchief was found at the spot where the stage was robbed, whereupon he asked with an air of offended dignity, "Do you take me for a stage robber? I never harmed any body in all my life, and this is the first time that my character has ever been brought into question." Usually he spoke with calmness and with a pleasant smile, though his voice was low and a little hollow, as if he had some affection of the throat or chest. There was also found a fly-leaf of a Bible, on which was some writing in lead pencil, rather indistinct, and portions quite illegible.

As near as could be deciphered, the writing was

> "This precious Bible is presented to Charles E. Boles, First Sergeant Company B, 116th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, by his wife, as a New Year's gift. God gives us hearts to which His * * * faith to believe. Decatur, Illinois, 1865."

His wife's name is signed to the writing. We told Black Bart that he was suspected of having committed the stage robbery on the third of this month, and we took him from his room to the City Prison.

TO SAN ANDREAS.

Next morning Captain Stone and Mr. Hume started with him on the 7:30 boat for Stockton en route for San Andreas. At Clinton Station, Alameda County, Mr. Thacker and I met them. We live on that side. Mr. Hume returned from there to San Francisco, having business which called him to Bakersfield, and Captain Stone, Mr. Thacker and I proceeded with the prisoner to Stockton. In the meantime we had telegraphed to Sheriff Thorne, of Calaveras County, to meet us at Stockton and bring down with him "Old Martin," the hunter, who had seen a man, supposed to be the robber, twice in the vicinity of where the robbery was committed, and about a week before it occurred, and once had a talk with him. The object was to see whether he could identify the prisoner as the man. "Black Bart" seemed full of fun all the way up, and showed no disposition to attempt an escape. He was not ironed. When we got off the train at Stockton depot and were met by Sheriff Thorne and Martin, the hunter, the latter's eyes fell immediately on Black Bart, and he exclaimed, even before he saw the officers, "That's the man, that's him!" identifying him at once in a crowd of more than a hundred people who gathered there to see the noted prisoner. Bart was at once taken to a photographer's to have his picture taken. At first he strongly objected, saying we had no right to do it, as he had done nothing; but finally he submitted, and sat quietly, and a good picture was obtained. When the photographer turned the camera on him as he sat in the chair, he asked with a laugh: "Will that thing go off? I would like to go off myself." From the photographer's he was taken to the Stockton jail and locked up for the night. On the following morning we went to Milton, Calaveras County. Here we met the driver of the stage that was robbed on the 3d inst. He came up and spoke to the prisoner, but said he could not identify him, as the robber was disguised in flour sacks, but the voice was the same. Bart seemed unconcerned, and kept up his jokes.

THE GREAT CROWD

that had assembled attracted his attention, and he said: "The whole town has turned out to meet me. I guess they'll know me when they see me again." At Milton we took a team and drove over to San Andreas—twenty-two miles. The whole population of the town—men, women and children—had turned out, and it was amusing to hear the remarks as they mistook the natty looking prisoner for an officer and some one of us for the culprit. It was agreed that we would start the next morning for the scene of the robbery to look for further evidence, and that before we went we would have another interview with Bart. I was selected to interview him. At seven o'clock in the evening he was taken into the jailor's room and I was left alone with him. I had written down all the facts we had gathered in connection with the case. These I carefully read to him, explaining what bearing they would have at the trial. He would often break off and go into other subjects. He would give graphic descriptions of his experience in battle and how he was wounded. Then he would branch off on Bible matters, in which he seemed well posted. He thought that Moses had a great deal of pluck to rereprove the Lord for His rash dealings with the children of Israel on different occasions. I would bring him back to the right subject again, and for five hours and a half I talked with him, ending the interview at 12:30 in the morning. During the interview Bart said: "I don't admit that I committed this robbery, but what benefit would it be to the man who did, to acknowledge it?" that I called his attention to the fact if the case went to trial, it would show what sort of a man he had been, and how he had committed numerous robberies, and it would naturally prejudice his case; while if he made restitution of the property and should go into court, and

PLEAD GUILTY

it would save the country the great expense of a trial, and would, no doubt, be taken into consideration by the court and effect a mitigation of his sentence. Bart then said: "Suppose the man who did commit the robbery should do this, would it not be possible for him to get clear altogether?" I said that it would be impossible, but if it went to trial and it would be shown that he had committed all these robberies, the chances were strongly in favor of his being sentenced for life. Bart then said: "I want you to understand that I am not going to San Quentin, I'll die first! These men may all come up and testify just as you say. Men are apt to commit perjury, and courts are apt to be prejudiced, and whether a man is guilty or not he has to suffer the consequences." He told me of a stage robbery where a man was arrested for the offense. The witnesses all swore against him. "I know of my own knowledge," said he, "that he didn't do it. I wonder whatever became of him." At the end of the interview, I called Captain Stone and Sheriff Thorne in, and after talking together with him for a few minutes he suddenly said: "Well, let us go after it." We then got a team and at 1 o'clock started out of San Andreas.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The Woes of a Letter-Carrier.

"Oh, taking one consideration with another, a carrier's life is not a happy one," muttered one of the "boys in gray" recently in a *Tribune* reporter's hearing.

"Why not?" ventured the reporter.

"Well it's just this way, young fellow; I've got to be at my office by 6 A. M. sharp. If I'm late even ten minutes do they dock my pay for the time lost? No, sir-e-e, you've got to lose the whole day—the letter-carrier must go! And when the salaries are $600, $800 or $1,000 a year at the most, every day counts. But the work is light, you say. Is it? I'm either tramping about delivering an average of 2,500 letters a day, or deciphering and sorting them at the office from 6 A. M. to 6 P. M. Perhaps you would like to walk about fifteen miles daily, as I do, and in all sorts of weather—rain or shine, hot or cold, snow or mud? I guess not. Then there's the thoughtless or inconsiderate person who stops you on your route and asks 'haven't you something for me this morning?' Besides taking my time (and we must be back at the office by a certain hour), he expects me to fumble over a number of letters, often to untie a bundle, and perhaps to incommode myself generally. Suppose I remember that his name is not on the list of that delivery (for by practice I've come to remember names in a list of even six hundred), he won't believe me, and makes me go through the packages. Then there's your house-mistress with her 'Postman, won't you please put this letter in the box at the corner?,' or 'Postman, will you take this money and put stamps on this letter when you get to the office?' Of course, out of courtesy, we do as we are asked, but because we are called 'public servants,' are we necessarily private servants also? Then some persons change their address, three or four times, it may be, in a year, and by not letting correspondents and the office know of it promptly, they keep us switching letters about from one place to another. In the aggregate, it bothers us considerably. Such little matters as being kept waiting at doors and being glared at savagely because expected letters haven't come are other pleasantries of the daily round. Yet my place would be filled immediately if I resigned. How many carriers are there? About 550, some of whom have been twenty years in the service. If sick our pay is lessened. We have two weeks vacation in the summer."—*New York Tribune.*

An Indianian's Luck.

In the programme arranged for the retirement of the Postmaster-General, it is Departmental gospel that Mr. C. W. Walker, now chief clerk of the Post-office Department, will be the successor of Mr. Frank Hatton, who is confident he will succeed Mr. Gresham. Mr. Walker, who was editor of the Indianapolis *Times* before his entrance into the Department, is a man of much ability.
—*Cincinnati Enquirer, Sept. 10.*

A POST-OFFICE DETECTIVE.

Interesting Incidents in the Capture of Criminals.

(CONTINUED FROM NUMBER 1.)

We commenced in our first issue some very interesting accounts of the capture of criminals by Mr. L. A. NEWCOME, an Inspector of the Post-office Department, taken from the New York *Weekly*, and we continue the narratives in this:

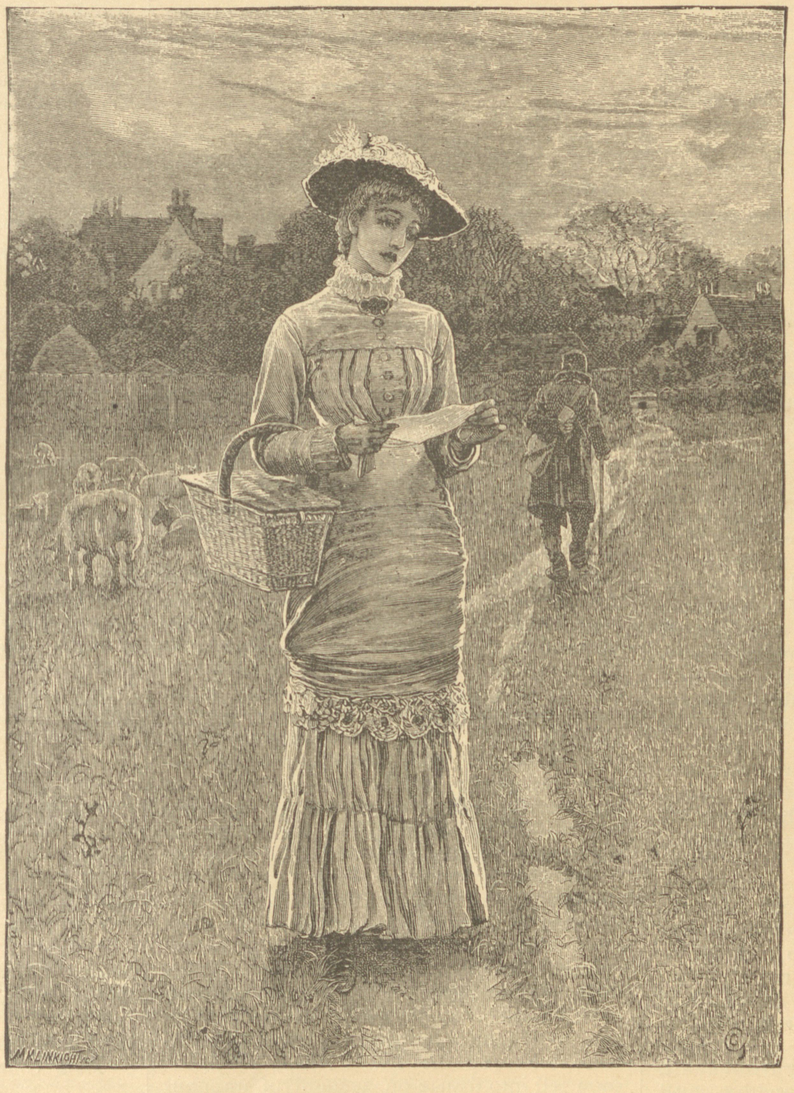
in the direction of Winterton depot, he started for the same place by a roundabout way. It was in March, and the ground was covered with snow on which a heavy crust had formed. However, Detective Newcome is a good pedestrian and made excellent time. Near the depot he had to descend a steep hill, when his foot slipped and he slid to the bottom. The robbers had already broken into the depot, and the noise of Newcome's fall alarmed them at first, but they finally concluded that it was "only a stone rolling down the hill."

Detective Newcome crouched down under a freight car, and grasping his revolver, prepared to defend himself if necessary. After securing their booty, the thieves departed for their rendezvous in the mountains. Detective Newcome followed, carefully taking note of every movement they made. On reaching the top of the mountains he hid himself in a clump of bushes near the house of Mose Mackney, the leader of the gang. Here the gang halted and went into the house. Mose soon came out, carrying the plunder on his back, and disappeared in a thicket near his dwelling. He soon returned and reëntered the house without the plunder.

The rest of the story can be best told in the words of the brave detective himself:

"I cautiously proceeded to the place where Mose had disappeared, and following his footsteps, I came to a stone wall where the tracks ended. It was evident from this point Mose had walked on top of the wall to the place in which he had concealed the stolen goods. Using my best judgment after mounting the wall, I soon came to a bulge in the wall, which attracted my attention. I examined it closely, and removing some of the stones, discovered a flat stone which I also removed. The place proved to be the entrance to a cave, in which I found not only results of the previous night's robbery, but of many other robberies. There was every conceivable kind of merchandise of a portable nature, besides a quantity of postage stamps and valuable packages stolen from the mails, stored in this cavern. The Mackney gang were duly arrested, tried, and convicted, and are now, I believe, doing time in prison. I shall never forget the toil of that night's work. I suppose I walked altogether fifty miles. I was afterward complimented by the department at Washington for my success in bringing the Mackney gang to justice."

"You arrested a letter-carrier named Reuker, did you not," we inquired of Mr. Newcome.


M'CLINRIGHT

COMING FROM THE POST-OFFICE.

"Yes," said he, "I arrested him. He had been in the service, too, for fifteen years."

"Did he take much? Is there anything remarkable about the case?"

"There was nothing original about his mode of stealing. Complaints were made to Postmaster Pierson that several letters had been missed from Station G. An investigation was begun, and appearances pointed to Reuker as the culprit. Inspector Gardener, Officer George W. Blonk and I worked up the case, received convincing proofs of Reuker's guilt, and arrested him."

Did he bear a good reputation before?"

"Yes; as far as I know."

"How was he fixed upon as the thief?"

"Two letters were sent to Station G for delivery. They were addressed to J. G. Boyd, No. 220 West Fiftieth street. One of the letters was postmarked 'Honesdale, Pa.,' and the other 'Fort Dodge, Iowa.' The letters contained $6 in marked money and $1.10 in postage stamps. When Reuker started out on his route at 1:40 P. M. these letters were given to him for delivery. He was shadowed while making his round and watched as he entered the station with his bag and the letters, which, for various reasons, he had not delivered. Reuker then left the station and went to No. 862 Eighth avenue, where he remained for a few moments. Then I followed him to a saloon at the south-east corner of Eighth avenue and Fifty-first street."

"And you arrested him there?"

"I'm coming to that," replied the Inspector. "I had to keep Reuker covered until Superintendent Shook, of Station G, should let me know whether the suspected carrier had returned the letters addressed to the hypothetical Mr. Boyd to the station. After Reuker had been in the saloon a little while Superintendent Shook sent me word that the dummy letters had not been returned. Then I went into the saloon and accosted Reuker."

"Do you know me?" I asked.

"No," he replied.

"My name is Newcome," said I.

"Oh, you are Inspector Newcome, I suppose; what do you want of me?"

"I want the $7.10 you have taken to-day from two letters addressed to J. G. Boyd, No. 220 West Fiftieth street.

"Reuker was surprised, but quietly handed me $6. I asked him where the stamps were."

"I keep them in another pocket," he said, and at once produced them. Then I asked what had become of the letters themselves. Reuker answered that he had torn them up at No. 862 Eighth avenue and disposed of the fragments.

"Did Reuker take his arrest quietly?" asked the reporter.

"Oh, yes," Inspector Newcome answered; "very quietly, indeed. In reply to questions, he said that he had been robbing the mails for three months, although I believe that his dishonesty has extended over a much longer period."

"How much has been taken in all?"

"It is difficult to state yet."

"Did he assign any reason for his thefts?"

"He said that his wife was extravagant, and her constant demands for money drove him to steal."

"Did Reuker preserve his demeanor throughout his day's experience?"

"Yes, most of the time, but when I left him this afternoon he was crying. He told me that he had intended to resign before his embezzlement was discovered."

"How old a man is he?"

"Not much, if any, younger than 45. As I said, he has been in the service for fifteen years. His salary was $1,000 a year."

A registered letter containing ten thousand dollars in bonds was opened at the New Haven post-offce on the night of Oct. 5th, and the bonds stolen. The matter was at once placed in the hands of Inspector Newcome, and in three days the thief was caged. Full particulars of the entire affair will appear in our December number.

"Coming From the Post-Office."

The scene of this illustration is laid in a country village, where a young girl has been "up-town" to do a little marketing and returned home, as usual, by way of the post-office. The result of her visit there is seen in her hands, and girl-like, she reads her letter while quietly and slowly wending her way homeward. With what eagerness she awaited the kindness of the postmaster, who, in answer to her inquiry, said there was a letter for her, and after scanning over the letters, perhaps for the hundredth time, he handed out the welcome missive.

STORY OF A CHECK.

An Embarrassing Situation as the Result of a Slow Mail.

Yesterday morning's papers contained accounts of trouble into which a prominent Kentuckian from Elliottsville had become embarrassed by a luckless bank check for $10,00, which he had drawn on a Lexington bank and cashed at the Third National Bank, in this city. The Third National people notified the Lexington bank by telegraph of the check, and that bank sent a telegram to this city requesting the police to arrest George Stall.

They found their man at the well known poker-rooms on the corner of Sixth and Vine streets. Mr. Ben. Hopkins, the cashier of the Third National Bank, accompanied the detectives, and on their arrival at the poker-rooms asked Mr. Stall to accompany him and the officers to the St. Nicholas to explain away if possible the suspicions resting against his hitherto fair reputation. Just what happened after that was not well understood by the reporters, and the four gentlemen present at the secret interview at the St. Nicholas did not seem disposed to divulge at the time.

A reporter called on Mr. Hopkins on Sunday night after the interview, in vain, but a second call last evening resulted more successfully, as Mr. Hopkins recognized the fact that his silence was doing Mr. Stall great injustice.

"I am very sorry this affair became public," said Mr. Hopkins, "for the gentleman who has been made to suffer *is* a gentleman, and is connected with one of the very best families in the country. The whole trouble was caused by a mistake. His check is usually good for $5,000, or even $10,000, on sight at this bank, where he has been making deposits for years. But he has just been to New York, and he sent from there a remittance to the bank, which he expected to arrive to-day. In the ordinary course of business we would have sent the check by mail, but, as it happened, we telegraphed notice of the check to Lexington bank, and, of course, it found no money to his credit. The remittance arrived there to-day, though, and so everything is right."

"Then do you attribute the matter to criminal intent, or simply to carelessness in keeping himself posted as to how his bank account stood when he drew on the bank?" asked the reporter.

"It was simply carelessness. Of course, such carelessness is almost inexcusable on the part of anybody, and especially an ex-bank cashier; but there were no criminal intentions in this case at all. We merely acted with promptitude in the matter, as we would do with anybody under like circumstances, as a precautionary measure.

"We did not place him under arrest at all. We simply asked for an explanation, and after he had given it we agreed to wait until to-day and see whether the arrival of the remittance he spoke about would prove his explanation correct, and it did so."—*Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.*

AFTER the dissolution of a firm, the post-office does not undertake to decide disputes that may arise between the members of the late firm as to the right to receive its mail matter. If they can not agree as to its disposition, it will be held for thirty days and then forwarded to the Dead Letter Office, marked "In Dispute," or disposed of as a Court of competent jurisdiction shall direct.

THE penalty for assaulting a letter-carrier while on duty is a fine of from one hundred to one thousand dollars, and imprisonment of from one to three years.

Brakemen as Letter-Carriers.

A person who has written a letter can scarcely do a more foolish thing than to intrust it to some disinterested party to put in the post-office or mail car. Only a day or two since a brakeman on one of the railroads leading to this city had occasion to put on an old coat which he had not used for some time, and in one of the pockets he found a number of letters which had been handed to him to deposit in the mail car, but he had forgotten them. Some of the letters were nearly worn out, and the writers were no doubt worn out waiting for answers. Such instances are constantly occurring. People writing letters should either deposit them in a proper receptacle or hand them to a proper official. There is a mail agent on board trains, to whom letters should be handed. A brakeman has his own duties to which to attend, and can not be expected to attend to business in which he has no interest, and for doing which he is not paid. —*Portland Oregonian.*

United States Postage Stamps.

The wide-spread interest in postage stamps felt by the whole community, apart from that of the large class of collectors, gives especial value to the following succinct but full history of the various issues of the United States Government, found in the report of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, A. D. Hazen, who has this department under his charge.

The use of postage stamps in the United States was first authorized by act of Congress, approved March 3, 1847, and their issue, in denominations of 5 and 10 cents only, to meet the then existing rates of postage, was begun by the Post-office Department on the first of July following. Previous to this date postage was collected entirely in money, its prepayment being in all cases optional.

On July 1, 1851, under the operation of the act of Congress of March 3d of that year, reducing the rates of postage, a new series of postage stamps was adopted, consisting, at first, of denominations of 1 and 3 cents only, but subsequently of the additional denominations of 5, 10, 12, 24, 30, and 90 cents. The issue of these stamps continued until 1861, when, soon after the commencement of the late rebellion, to prevent the use of such of them as were outstanding in the hands of postmasters in the insurrectionary States. the series was superseded by a new one of the same denominations, but of different designs and colors. Another denomination—2 cents—was, however, added on the 1st of July, 1863, to accommodate the local rate of postage. Moreover, in consequence of a change in the rates of newspaper postage, special stamps of large size, in denominations of 5, 10, and 25 cents, were issued on the 1st of April, 1865, but soon fell into disuse on account of unpopularity.

In March, 1869, a new series of stamps replaced those up to that time in use, of the same denominations, except that a 6-cent was substituted for the 5-cent stamp; but the series not meeting with favor, it was, in its turn, superseded in May, 1870, by the stamps now in use. The same denominations continued to be employed, with subsequent addition of a 7-cent stamp, until July 1, 1875, when a 5-cent stamp was added, and the 7, 12, and 24 cent stamps were discontinued. The series, therefore, at present consists of the following denominations: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 15, 30, and 90 cents.

By act of Congress of March 3, 1873, in consequence of the repeal of the franking privilege, the Postmaster-General was required to provide stamps or stamped envelopes of special design for each of the several executive departments, to prepay postage on official matter passing through the mails. The issue of these stamps was commenced on the 24th of May, 1872, for use on the 1st of July following, and still continues. Their denomination are as follows:

Executive: 1, 2, 3, 6, and 10 cents.

Department of State: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, and 2, 5, 10, and 20 dollars.

Treasury, War, and Navy Departments, each: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents.

Departments of the Interior, Justice, and Post-office: 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents.

Department of Agriculture: 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, and 30 cents.

Under the act of Congress, approved June 23, 1872, stamps of special designs were provided for the prepayment of postage on newspapers and periodicals mailed from known offices of publication or news agencies. The act took effect on the 1st of January, 1875, but the issue was begun on the 11th of December previous, and still continues. The following are the denominations: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, and 96 cents, and 1.92, 3, 6, 9, 12, 24, 36, 48, and 60 dollars.

The Trouble at the Post-office.

A Milesian female approaches. She is short and angular, with a hatchet-shaped face and a hatchet-edged voice: "Where's me letther?" is her abrupt question.

"What letter?" asked the clerk.

"Niver mind, now; I want me three cints."

"What three cents?"

"The three cints I gev ye to send a letther to Baltimoor."

"What do you want with the three cents for, then?"

"Because the letther niver wint."

"And how do you know it never went?"

"Because, whin me sisther answered it, she said she niver got it?"

"How could she answer it if she never got it?"

"Arrah, hould your head! Will yer give me the three cints, or won't ye?"

"No, ma'am; you must be crazy to ask it."

"Is it me crazy?"

"Certainly; crazy as a bed-bug."

"Bad luck to ye; an' is it the likes of you that dare to call me a bed-bug? Is there any other way of gettin' at ye except through this little windy?" asked the now furious woman.

"No, ma'am, no other way."

"Faith, it's lucky for ye thin. Av there was, I'd come and welt ye like an old shoe. Niver mind," continued the lady, as she went away, "I'll tell me husband to-night, and he'll dot the two eyes of ye, so he will." —*New Orleans Item.*

THE following problem has been submitted to the Cleveland *Herald:* Miss Smith was married to Mr. Jones recently, while she held the office of postmistress. The question is, "Who held the office after the ceremony was performed? Certainly not Miss Smith, for there no longer was a Miss Smith. And certainly not Mrs. Jones, for no such postmistress was known to the Department." The *Herald* gives it up.

"I SEE that an Ohio postmistress has resigned her position to get married," remarked an old Benedict to his wife.

"Poor thing! I pity her!" said his helpmeet.

"Why so?"

"Because, after the honeymoon is over, she'll have to sit up every night and wait till the *male* comes in."

Very Mysterious.

A Letter Delivered Which Never Passed Through the Post-office.

About a week ago John Curran, a saloon-keeper at No. 1 Lincoln Avenue, lost a pocket book containing $15 in money and his saloon and cigar licenses. Two or three days ago letter-carrier Olson delivered an envelope to Mr. Curran, which contained the licenses, but not the money. The envelope was not stamped nor had the two-cent stamp upon it been canceled, showing almost beyond a doubt that the missive had not passed through the post-office. Mr. Curran reported the matter to Assistant Postmaster Fowler, and that efficient official immediately proceeded to investigate. Olson was questioned as to how the envelope came into his possession. He could not remember whether he received it at the South Side branch office, or had taken it from a box and delivered it direct to Curran, and had no remembrance of having taken the letter from a person in the street. The affair is quite mysterious, and no solution of the matter has yet been reached.—*Milwaukee Times.*

A Mail Robber's Confession.

OTTAWA, Oct. 12.—A dispatch from Pembroke states that Morgan, a baggage man on a Canadian Pacific train, who was arrested for stealing letters out of the mails, has confessed the crime. He says that the bags on which he operated were always those tied with small cotton rope. This rope, which is passed through eyelet holes in the mouth of the bag, it drawn tight, the projecting end twisted and the padlock passed through the loop. When he wished to make a haul, he says that, without touching the lock, he reversed the twist in the rope, which slackened it, allowing enough space in the mouth of the bag for him to put his hand in and secure his plunder. When Morgan's confession reached the ears of the Postmaster-General to-day, he immediately sent for the post-office inspectors and directed them to take immediate steps to have all mail bags properly fastened. As there are several thousand of these bags in use in Canada, it will take some little time before the change can be effected.

The Australian Mails.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Oct. 9.—Advices from the Australian colonies by the late mail gives important details in relation to the action of the colonies for the maintenance of the postal service to England via San Francisco. The continuance of the service was contingent upon the payment by the United States of one-third of the annual subsidy. Congress adjourned last session without making the appropriation for the subsidy, and the democratic house struck the senate clause out of the postal bill, which enabled the Postmaster-General to contract for the carriage of American mail by sea, whereby payment could have been made on account of the Australian-China-Brazilian mail. The result has been that the Postmaster-General of New South Wales has given the necessary three months' notice of discontinuance, so far as that colony is concerned, and the contract terminates on its account next month. New Zealand, however, will continue the service, alternating with the direct line to England, and in this way securing a fortnightly mail service without reference to Australia. It is expected, of course, that the next congress will compensate New Zealand for the expense. It has been the persistent policy of the British government to break down the San Francisco-Australia mail route, and the late democratic congress played into the hands of England.

A Swindling Concern.

OTTAWA, ONTARIO, Oct. 9—It is somewhat surprising that, in the face of repeated exposures of a gigantic lottery swindle that is being carried on at St. Stephen, New-Brunswick, in which Americans are the principal victims, the business of the concern has nearly doubled during the year. The Dominion Government say they have no power to stop it. Be this as it may, postal receipts from circulars sent out to the United States by the concern add nearly $40,000 to the Dominion revenue, which may account for the Government showing no disposition to interfere. The Montreal *Gazette*, edited by Thomas White, a member of the Dominion Parliament, and an ardent supporter of the Government, publishes the following announcement to-day:

> "This rascally concern is again in full blast after having slackened operations when there seemed likelihood of legal interference, and every mail brings greenbacks from victimized citizens of the South and West. If postal legislation does not give power to seize circulars of this barefaced swindling concern or withhold from it and return to the sender money that is sent for tickets, it ought to have been made to give such power. No one in authority has taken the slightest step toward its suppression. No drawings are ever held, no prizes are ever awarded, but every dollar that is received for tickets is pocketed by the persons who send out flaming circulars by which the credulous are caught. Circulars are sent only to persons at a distance, as it is feared that if any one near at hand were fleeced he would prosecute; and thus this tolerated, if not legalized, robbery goes on year after year without any efforts being made on the part of the Provincial or Federal authorities to suppress it. The facts are known at Ottawa, and the apathy of the Postmaster-General is unaccountable."

The article winds up by asking that some action be taken for putting a stop to the use of the mails for such wholesale robbery of the people of the United States.

For Robbing Mail Boxes.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., October 4.—Benjamin W. Carr, Jr., who was dismissed from the letter-carriers' service of Newport, May 1st, for drunkenness, was this morning arrested for breaking two lamp-post letter boxes in that city, last night, with stones or heavy pieces of iron, and abstracting the letters. Some of the letters were found scattered about the street. He is held for arraignment.

A Postmaster's Son in Trouble.

Charles B. Hammond, a clerk in the post-office at Patchogue, Long Island, and son of Postmaster Hammond, who disappeared from Patchogue two weeks ago, was arrested by Inspector Newcome recently on a charge of robbing the mails. He was arraigned before United States Commissioner Allen, in Brooklyn, and held in $1,000 for examination. Registered letters and packages containing jewelry and other valuables have been stolen from the Patchogue office since July 10, 1883.—*Brooklyn, Union, Oct. 25.*

A Young Mail Robber.

Sydney Purser, a lad about 15 years of age, from Rock Island, was before Commissioner Hoyne charged with robbing the mails. He admitted his guilt, and was held to await the action of the Grand Jury. He is charged with stealing several packets of letters from the post-office at Rock Island and destroying them when he discovered that they did not contain any valuables. So far as is known he did not get any money.—*Chicago Times.*

THERE was received by the railway mail service officers Wednesday a package of about 50 letters which were stuck together with blood, and with the addresses nearly obliterated by it. The letters were in the hands of the postal clerk Williams when he was hurt in the Rock Island accident Monday. The letters were sent to Washington. —*Chicago News.*

How He Delivered the Mail.

Michael J. Rielly, a letter-carrier attached to Station B, arrested on the charge of delaying the mails, was taken before United States Commissioner Shields recently. Post-office Inspector Newcome had been notified by a merchant in Bond street that Rielly had left a package of letters in a store. Officer Bronk was sent by the Inspector, and upon discovering the truth of the information arrested Rielly. The case will be investigated by Commissioner Shields.—*New York World.*

Postal Rates Ninety Years Ago.

Now that the two-cent postage law has gone into effect, the following provisions of the first law of Congress on the subject will be read with interest. February 20, 1792, was the date of the first act fixing rates on domestic letters and establishing the following rates, to take effect June 1, 1792:

Act Feb. 20, 1792, section 9, by land: For every single letter, not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents. For every single letter over 30 miles and not exceeding 60 miles, 8 cents. For every single letter over 60 miles and not exceeding 100 miles, 10 cents. For every single letter over 100 miles and not exceeding 150 miles, 12½ cents. For every single letter over 150 miles and not exceeding 200 miles, 15 cents. For every single letter over 200 miles and not exceeding 250 miles, 17 cents. For every single letter over 250 miles and not exceeding 350 miles, 20 cents. For every single letter over 350 miles and not exceeding 450 miles, 22 cents. For every single letter over 450 miles, 25 cents. For every double letter, double the said rate. For every triple letter, triple the said rates. For every packet weighing one ounce avordupois, to pay at the rate of four single letters for each ounce, and in that proportion for any greater weight.

C. W. BICKERY, Superintendent of the Third Division Railway Mail Service, with headquarters at Atlanta, Ga., has been transferred to Washington, D. C., relieving Superintendent L. M. Terrill, who will take charge of the Third Division.

THE commission appointed to examine the San Francisco post-office has made its report. They recommend a number of changes in the grading of the employees and internal arrangements of the office, the adoption of which would involve an increase of $8,400 in the annual allowance for the office. The report is complimentary to the postmaster, and commends his management of the office.

A LETTER has been addressed by the Washington Post-office Clerks' Association to the post-office clerks in the first class offices, enclosing the resolution adopted by them instructing their delegate to withdraw from the proposed convention, to be held here in December, unless all the post-office employees are included in the movement to obtain legislation relative to the classification and equalization of salaries. The movement was originated for the benefit, it is stated, of the clerks of the mailing division only.

CHIEF INSPECTOR SHARPE, of the Post-office Department, has issued a general order to all inspectors, directing them in cases where a deficiency is found to exist in the accounts of a post-office, to arrest the postmaster and immediately begin legal proceedings against him through the District Attorney. The practice heretofore has been to allow the delinquent postmaster to supply the deficiency, if of small amounts, from his personal means.—*Washington Post.*

Probably Fatal Shot.

A Postmaster and Editor the Victim.

W. F. Richards, Postmaster, and editor of the Clarksburg *Telegram*, was dangerously shot by A. B. Osborn, October 4th, and may die. The trouble between the two, it appears, grew out of Osborn's intimacy with Richards' wife. This intimacy, which began some time ago, was the cause of Richards and his wife's separation, and has been continued since, Osborn visiting her at other places. On one occasion Richards caught Osborn at his house and threatened to punish him, but did not do so. He has since, however, frequently published articles in his paper which have been very offensive to Osborn, and have aggravated the bad feeling existing between the two.

This week's issue of the *Telegram* contained reference to a social that was held at Osborn's residence, at which young Osborn became very much enraged, and he revenged himself by shooting Richards when he met him this morning. The attack was unexpected by Richards, who, in his deposition, claims that he was shot at four times. One shot took effect in the upper right lung, and may prove fatal. Osborn was arrested and is now in jail. He will plead insanity, as he has been an inmate of the Weston Insane Asylum, and is really not considered very bright. His family are much distressed over the sad occurrence.

A Bad Man Arrested.

WASHINGTON, Sept 26.—Seth W. Tuley, alias Philip Nolan, Post-office Department clerk, was arrested yesterday on a charge of violating the bankrupt laws of Indiana. After his arrest it was learned that he was wanted in Indiana to answer another charge, that of attempting to defraud life insurance companies. It is said, seven or eight years ago, Tuley insured his life in the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee, for $8,000, and after paying two or three premiums, disappeared, and that shortly afterwards his wife removed from Indianapolis, where they had been living, to New Albany, and from the last named place filed application for payment of her husband's insurance, accompanying the application with what purported to be proof of his having been drowned while crossing a creek, and of the interment of his remains at New Albany; that the insurance company was about to pay the policy on Tuley's life when they learned he had been seen subsequently to the date of his alleged drowning, and that since then they had been looking for him. In July last, Tuley, who then and since called himself Nolan, and said he was from Texas, was appointed, under Civil Service rules, in the Post-office Department. Since his arrest, he has admitted his name to be Tuley, and that he is wanted in Indiana for attempting to defraud the insurance company. He was sent to Indiana last night.

A Mail Robber Bound Over.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., Oct. 8.—Albert Bowen, charged with stealing from the post-office a letter containing $10,500 worth of bonds, the property of Crosby & Co., of New York, was to-day bound over to the December term of the United States Court at Hartford. No testimony was taken.

THE post-office inspectors have discovered a shortage in the accounts of the postmaster at Ashland, Pa., amounting to $408 in the money order department and $487 in the postal account. The postmaster has offered to make good the deficit, but the inspectors have been directed to take charge of the office and arrest the postmaster.—*Washington Post.*

Examining Post-Offices.

The Postmaster-General has received reports from Commissions appointed to examine into the condition of the Chicago and St. Louis post-offices. At Chicago the Commission recommended a change in organization so as to consolidate the offices of Assistant Postmaster and Auditor, and abolish the office of Private Secretary to the Postmaster, which was filled by an officer who was found to have performed very little service. Several changes among the minor offices are also recommended, as well as an increase of force in the delivery division. The net result of the changes would be to increase the allowance for the office $12,660.

At St. Louis the Commission recommend the abolition of the offices of Auditor and Local Inspector, and the relegation to lighter duties of the cashier and his assistant, who are superanuated. An allowance of $3,860 is recommended for additional clerical force.

Colonel Morton's Library.

It was reported yesterday that the wife of Colonel Charles B. Morton, ex-Assistant Postmaster of Brooklyn, who mysteriously disappeared several weeks ago, was preparing to dispose of her husband's valuable library, which is stated to be worth more than $20,000. Colonel Morton was an indefatigable book collector, and spent most of his leisure in getting and reading the best books, many of which were in fine editions. His wife did not sympathize with his literary tastes. The latest rumor about Morton is that he went away with the wife of another man, but it can be traced to no trustworthy source. Postmaster McLeer said yesterday, that if anything could bring Colonel Morton back in a hurry it would be the news that his wife proposed to break up his valuable library.—*N. Y. Tribune, Sept. 15.*

Another Postmaster Gone Wrong.

WASHINGTON, PA., Oct. 9.—Postmaster W. C. Wylie, of this place, disappeared suddenly a week ago, and is still mysteriously missing. Nothing is known about his office affairs, but a special Government officer will arrive in the morning for the purpose of examining the books to ascertain whether a deficiency exists.

LATER.

WASHINGTON, PA., Oct. 11.—Postmaster Wylie, who has been mysteriously missing for over a week, has turned up in Omaha. A telegram received to-day says he has written two letters explaining his absence.

Stage Robbed by Highwayman.

News has been received from Dallas, Texas, of a daring stage robbery on the line between Weatherford and Graham. The stage was halted by a single highwayman, who ordered the passengers, four in number, to hold up their hands, which they did with alacrity, while he went through them, securing $95 in money, a gold watch and chain, and a gun. After securing the booty the robber made his escape, but is being hotly pursued by a sheriff's posse.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

Stolen Postage Stamps Heard From.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.—Postmaster Burrows, of this city, has received a letter from New York inquiring what he would give for information concerning the recent robbery of stamps from the office here. The letter requested a reply through the personal column of the *Herald*. The Postmaster published a reply offering $1,000 for return of the stolen stamps, which amounted to $3,500.

FATHER (*to daughter going out to post some letters*). "Yes, my dear, mail the notes, but don't note the males."

Effectual Destruction.

Owing to a recent loss of damaged postage stamps, the officials of the Post-office Department have adopted a plan which they think will prevent future depredations. Instead of trusting certain clerks to destroy the spoiled sheets of stamps a careful count has been instituted, and after being canceled, the defective sheets are sent to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Here they are placed in the macerating apparatus which destroys damaged and worn out notes, bonds, and checks. A committee from the Post-office Department will witness the destruction. Under this arrangement, it is thought that it will be impossible for speculating clerks to get the best of Uncle Sam, as under the plan now in vogue at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.—*Washington Post.*

Safes for the Post-Office Department.

The representatives of the eight leading safe makers have been competing before the Department for the contract to supply the following post-offices with large fire and burglar-proof safes, viz.: New York City, Charlotte, N. C., Greenfield, Mass., Birmingham, Conn., Concord, N. H., and Orange, N. J. The Marvin Safe Company, of New York and Philadelphia, were the successful bidders.

THE magnitude of the money order business between this country and England, exclusive of the remainder of Europe, is shown by the fact that the Postmaster-General is required to transmit weekly to England a sum of money averaging $75,000 in payment of the balance against the United States. This sum represents the excess money orders sold in this country payable in England over the sales in that country for money orders payable in the United States.—*Washington Post.*

THE Postmaster-General the other day awarded the contract for furnishing to the Post-office Department for the remainder of the fiscal year the class of envelopes known as "free" envelopes, which are used for official business only, to the Morgan Envelope Company, of Hartford, Conn., they being the lowest bidders. This new contract was made necessary by the annulment a few days ago of the original contract for these supplies with another firm, it having been found that the envelopes furnished were not up to sample.—*Washington Post.*

THE committee appointed to examine the New Orleans Post-Office have submitted a report severely condemning the conduct of the officers. It says there is lack of cooperation among the division chiefs and the Postmaster, and utter absence of business principles. The report condemns the selection of Assistant Postmaster Henrique, and recommends a general reorganization of the office.—*Washington Post.*

THE money order business of the Washington Post-Office has, by direction of the Department, been carefully investigated by Post-Office Inspector Fink, who reports that he found it in excellent condition; that the books and accounts had been written out to date, and the balance of cash therein shown was on hand. The inspector states in his report that he takes pleasure in commending the money order business of the Washington Post-Office.—*Washington Post.*

Smuggling Diamonds in the Mails.

The Custom-house examiner of foreign mail, at the Post-Office, on October 6th, seized forty-one large diamonds found in the mails of the steamer Brittania. Their value is $10,000.

St. Louis Post-Office Business.

The report of Superintendent Colman, of the Mail Division of the Post-office, for the month of September, made yesterday, shows as much as any previously published statement could the increase in the business of the post-office in one year. The delivery by carriers for the month were 13,148 registered letters, against 12,895 in September, 1883, an increase of 253; mail letters, 1,551,819, against 1,290,637, an increase of 261,182; mail postal cards, 315,736, against 307,556, an increase of 8,180; local letters, 311,939, against 268,221, an increase of 43,718; local postal cards, 223,608, against 209,178, an increase of 14,430; newspapers and circulars, 658,094, against 580,648, an increase of 77,346.

There were collections during the month as follows, the comparison with the same month in 1883 being made: The letters collected were 1,341,094, against 885,109, an increase of 455,985; postal cards, 431,143, against 334,627, an increase of 96,516; newspapers 312,172, against 226,382, an increase of 85,790. The amount of postage on drop letters for September was $15,675.62, while in the month preceding (August) it was $13,194.44.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat.*

Chicago Post-Office Business.

The September report of the Chicago Post-office shows that the sales of postage stamps, postal cards, newspaper and periodical stamps, stamped envelopes, and newspaper wrappers amounted to $180,468.48. The money-order division report domestic orders issued, $94,670.43; postal notes issued, $4,152.91; international orders issued, $32,538,72; domestic orders paid, $521,781.56; international orders paid, $12,158.47; postal notes paid, $66,761.91; postmaster's deposits, $623,424; remittances to New York, $149,000. The report of the carriers' division is as follows: Carriers employed, 317; delivery trips, daily, 928; collection trips, daily, 851; registered letters delivered, 35,252; mail letters delivered, 4,102,243; mail postal cards delivered, 864,643; local letters delivered, 829,743; local postal cards delivered, 824,411; newspapers, etc., delivered, 1,244,241; letters returned to the office, 12,271; letters collected, 4,443,971; postal cards collected, 1,702,412; newspapers, etc., collected, 1,425,674; total postage on local matter delivered through the boxes, general delivery, and by carrier, $37,841.42.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Decrease in Indianapolis Post-Office Receipts.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., October 10.—The receipts of this post-office show a large decrease since the two-cent letter postage went into operation. For the year ending October 1, 1883, the receipts were $198,482.84, and for the year ending October 1, 1884, they were $176,639.74; decrease, $21,843.10.

Registered Matter in the City Post-Office.

Postmaster Conger has made a report to the Post-office Department, showing the amount of registered matter handled in his office during the quarter ending September 30, 1884, the total number of pieces being 364,131. For the same quarter in 1883 the number was 271,164, and for the same quarter in 1882 the number was 187,475, showing an increase of nearly 100,000 over 1882, and over 175,000 over 1881.—*Washington Republican.*

THE first year's business of the Post-office Department, since the reduction of postage to two cents, shows a decrease of only $2,296,502 in the sales of stamps in an aggregate of $40,627,059, showing an immense increase in the number of letters mailed.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL HATTON.

The President Fills the Vacancy Caused by Mr. Gresham's Promotion.

Shortly after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon Mr. Frank Hatton, First Assistant Postmaster-General, was summoned to the White House by the President and there informed of his appointment to be Postmaster-General. The interview was a very pleasant one, and so far as can be ascertained it has been the fixed intention of the President to appoint Mr. Hatton since the vacancy occurred.

The news of the appointment reached the Post-office Department about 4 o'clock, and was received with lively expressions of approval. Judge Lawrence, the oldest employee of the department, who has been in the postal service more than fifty years, and who is a notary public, was sent for to administer the oath of office. He has performed the same office for twenty-two Postmasters-General, beginning with Postmaster-General C. B. Wyckliffe, of Kentucky, in 1841.

Mr. Hatton took the oath of his office at his desk surrounded by the officers and clerks of the department, his hand resting on the same time-worn Bible that has been kissed by many of his predecessors. After the oath was adminstered the officers and clerks crowded around Mr. Hatton and congratulated him with every appearance of real sincerity. It is believed in the department that he will make a practical business Postmaster-General, and there is every reason to believe that he will have the hearty and friendly co-operation of the officers and clerks.

It has not yet been decided who shall succeed Mr. Hatton as First Assistant Postmaster-General. There will be no changes in the department.—*Washington Post, Oct. 15.*

Postmaster-General Hatton will probably be succeeded as first assistant by Mr. Walker, at present chief clerk of the department. Mr. Marr, the veteran chief clerk in the first assistant's office, has been designated to act in Mr. Hatton's late place for ten days. The atmosphere of Gen. Hatton's room at the department yesterday was heavy with the fragrance of many baskets and bouquets of beautiful flowers which the friends of the new postmaster-general had sent him. Congratulatory telegrams from various parts of the country came pouring in all day.—*Washington Republican, Oct. 16.*

REPUBLICANS generally will heartily indorse the elevation of Mr. Frank Hatton to the head of the post-office department. He has earned the promotion, and he deserves it.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

Hon. Frank Hatton is Postmaster-General. He is a very capable executive officer, and will discharge the duties devolving upon him as well as any man who ever occupied the position.—*Dayton (Ohio) Journal.*

FIFTY-FIVE applications for positions in the city post-office were examined yesterday in the "school-room" attached to the office of the Civil Service Commission. About one-half of those examined were applicants for letter-carriers' position and the remainder for clerkships. The examination for the general departmental service will begin on the 16th instant and will extend over three days, there being about 180 applicants for appointments.—*Washington Post, Oct. 15.*

MR. JOHN BYRNE, the new Superintendent of the Stamp Department of the Post-office, was presented with a watch and chain by his associates on his acquisition to his new position.—*Cincinnati Times-Star.*

THE UNITED STATES MAIL should be read by everyone in the Postal service.

How to Make Postmasters.

It is said that the Civil Service reformers at Washington are racking their wits as to how to remove the fifty thousand post-offices of the land from the debasing influence of party politics. Why would not the original custom regarding these offices answer the purpose? Whenever there was a change of administration in old times, the persons who most used a post-office united, without regard to party distinctions, in recommending the appointment of some person—generally the incumbent for the time being—whom they could trust to handle their letters. In some localities this custom has been followed, and has been respected at Washington so thoroughly that there are postmasters who have been continuously in service for forty years.

There is no other office under the power of the national administration that offers so little excuse for change as that of postmaster. All that is expected of the incumbent is that he shall receive, distribute, and forward mail matter promptly and honestly. The office does not require a learned man. It merely needs some one in whom the people who send or receive letters have confidence. To put a professional politician in charge of a post-office, is to weaken public confidence in the department, for, rightly or wrongly, the people believe that any man who makes a business of politics is mean enough to steal a letter or anything else which he believes will further the purposes of his party. There is no possible reason for making a postmaster anything but what the founders of our Government intended he should be—the servant of the community in which he lives. Hence, the fewer the changes, except for cause, in the post-offices, the better the Government, no matter which party it represents, will appear to the eyes of the public at large.—*New York Sun.*

Exhibit of the World's Fair.

Gen. M. La Rue Harrison, of the Post-office Department at Washington, is in the city. He has in charge the superintendence of the Government exhibit of the World's Fair in New Orleans, and his visit here is to collect material for the exhibit. One of the ideas he proposes to use is a miniature moving fast transcontinental mail train, with track, cars, etc. He said the Government exhibit there will excel any previous efforts, and will be placed near the exhibits by several other countries who are preparing displays. An endeavor will be made to place a Government exhibit here next year, but with what success can not now be said, as the expense attached is great, and following the large expenditure to be made at New Orleans, the Government might not feel justified in making an expensive show here. —*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Inspector Bassett, of the New York post-office, received information yesterday that the postmaster of the post-office of Sag Harbor, Long Island, was behind in his accounts. He at once went to Long Island and made a thorough inspection of the affairs of the office, and discovered that the postmaster, W. N Halsey, was short $1,172. Inspector Bassett then called upon the bondsmen, Stephen Clark, Chas. W. Payne, James T. Dodson, Richard H. Harris, W. White, J. F. Ludington, John Homan, and Brimley Sleight, who each put up his portion of the shortage. The amount thus being made good by the bondsmen, the postmaster will remain in charge of the office awaiting action of the Department at Washington after the report of Inspector Bassett has been acted upon.—*New York Times.*

A MAN has just died in New Hampshire who had been postmaster of his town 27 years.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

MONTHLY.

ONE YEAR,	$2 00
SIX MONTHS,	1 00
SINGLE COPIES,	20 CENTS.
Ten Copies,	One Dollar.

Remittances should be made to the order of The United States Mail, *and should be by money order, postal note, check. or registered letter.*

The United States Mail *is the only journal in this country of legitimate circulation, depending entirely upon its merits for public patronage, devoted to the interests of the postal service.*

Advertisements are not admitted into this journal.

Entered at the Post-office. Cincinnati. for transmission through the mails at second-class postal rates.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, NOVEMBER, 1884.

"A Postmaster's Daughter."

We printed in our *Prospectus* a very striking representation of "A Postmaster's Daughter" in Illinois, and remarked that she was so beautiful that she had turned the heads of all the men in her town, old and young, and intimated that we would give her name in our first issue.

We were immediately beset with difficulties. Nearly all the postmasters in that State who had handsome daughters imagined that theirs was the one referred to, and we were at once flooded with communications upon the subject from anxious parents. Some regarded it as a compliment, and others as a gross violation of private life to name the lady. Some sent photographs of their daughters so we could get a better portrait, and some sent "fair notice" of legal prosecution if we gave the name of "their daughter." We never dreamed of such hindrances in our enterprise. If we give the name of the young lady the picture was intended to represent, we will be sued, and perhaps shot, and, at the same time, disappoint a large number of anxious fathers; so we have about concluded to defer a further consideration of the matter until our January issue, which will be out about December 23d. The Assistant Postmaster at Ft. Randall, Dakota, who is on "pins and needles" to know who she is, must wait a little longer, and if we are really prohibited from making her name public, we will send it to him by postal card.

"United States Post-Office."

The Post-office Department furnishes letter-heads to first, second, and third class post-offices free of charge, and prints on each sheet the words *United States Post-Office*, leaving a blank line for each postmaster to write in the name of his office.

We would mildly and gently suggest to the Department that in printing these letter-heads the words *North America* be added, because there are some, you know, who do not know where the United States are. At least it occurs to us that the words *North America* are just about as necessary as the words *United States*, for if there are any post-offices in this country *other* than United States post-offices, they have escaped our observation.

Post-Office Reform.

We hear much of post-office reform, that is, in the general management of the service. There can be no doubt but that there are many ways whereby it can be improved and made more efficient, but all that cannot be done in a month or a year, but only from time to time as it is seen where the most auspicious openings exist. The bitterest foe of the post-office department will not deny that it is not to-day far more efficient and thorough in all its operations than ever before in its history. It is less a political machine, and the wants and necessities of the public are made paramount to every other consideration. It is a vast and complex system and requires the most careful study upon the part of those engaged in its management. Its employees number almost one hundred thousand persons, and of course in such a vast body there must be some who are incompetent and dishonest. Indications of this are now and then apparent, but we stoutly maintain that as a body of men and women they are the equal of any other of the same number that can be gathered together anywhere upon the globe.

The deficiencies of the service, as a whole, will never disappear. It is beyond all human possibility that such a state of affairs could exist; but, on the other hand, the *administration* of the postal system will become more and more marked in its efficiency and thoroughness until it will become as near perfection as human skill and judgment can assure.

The chief embarrassment of the postal service is its *political* tenure. Good and true men are turned out of office now and then to make room for some incompetent who *must* be rewarded for his political services. He held tickets, he ran with the boys, he did the dirty work of the party, and he cannot be remunerated unless he is made a postmaster.

The post-office belongs to the public, and we would be glad to see it removed from the arena of politics. The people, however, control the question, and if its fair garments are soiled by impure contact, the people alone will be to blame.

Third Class Offices.

We present some communications in this issue upon the compensation allowed postmasters of third class offices. There appears to be anything but a satisfactory solution of the question, as made by Congress, and we commend to the attention of the post-office committees an examination into the grievances enumerated. Every class of our public servants are entitled to justice at the hands of the Government, and to legislate favorably for postmasters of the larger offices, and against those of the smaller, will only work to the public detriment.

We have an impression, however, that the act of Congress complained of, was not *intended* to bear heavily upon those whom it affects, but was passed rather unadvisedly.

What third class postmasters *must* do is to act *unitedly*, and move down upon Congress this winter in a body, and try and have the wrong righted.

Lady Postmasters.

We have been favored with a communication from some lady in Milwaukee, Wis., in which strong grounds are taken in favor of ladies acting as postmasters. There was no name attached to it, and as it contained certain statements of a personal character, we cannot publish it.

The facts are that there are many arguments for and against ladies acting in that capacity, but we have not the time nor space to enumerate them. The United States Mail is the friend of the ladies, and is most decidedly in favor of according to them every possible opportunity to earn an honest living. There are not now a sufficient number of what are understood to be outside occupations, in which ladies of refinement can enter and earn a livelihood, and if the Government of the United States can come to their rescue and bestow upon them offices of honor and trust, then let it be done. The only requirement that should be insisted upon is, that the public business should not suffer.

The record made by ladies occupying such positions is a good one. There is no instance where one ever became a defaulter to the Government, or where they were caught robbing the mails. Their offices are generally well kept, quiet, orderly and administered with commendable skill and promptness. They are much more patient and refined than the generality of men, and are more willing to go to extremes to accommodate their patrons. Ladies are never so happy as when doing a favor to some one, and as postmasters they have a most excellent opportunity to cultivate that trait in their character. It is an in-door life. It is public and yet private. They meet the world and yet they have a world to themselves.

Ladies have proven themselves capable of managing even large offices. Mrs. Thompson, at Louisville, Ky., is an evidence of this. There is no detail in the business of her office with which she is not fully conversant, and she is quick to initiate reforms and improvements where they are admissible. There are many other lady postmasters throughout the country who deserve credit for their faithfulness and capacity, and our understanding is that they stand high at the Department.

Dropping the question of advisability of placing ladies in such responsible positions as a postmastership would involve, there cannot, however, be any doubt but that as assistant postmasters they are in their element, and their appointment to such positions should not be discouraged.

There is a political aspect to all this which some consider as of paramount importance.

The Post-office Department has changed its action taken two months ago relative to the Chicago post-office, and on Oct. 1st issued an order which placed Auditor Upham in his old position, and gave him his former salary.

Delinquent Subscribers.

We are sorry to say we have a large number of delinquent subscribers on our books. *They agreed to pay upon the reception of our first issue*, but have so far failed to respond. This is neither fair, nor just, nor honest. Had they paid up promptly, The United States Mail for November would have been twenty-four pages instead of sixteen, and other important features would have been added. If those who owe us will remit immediately upon receipt of this number, they will be entitled to our thanks.

Telegrams in Letter Boxes.

The German Postmaster-General has introduced another practical innovation in the service, namely, that of allowing telegrams to be thrown into the letter boxes, more especially into those attached to the mail cars on railway trains. All that is needed is to write the message on paper, mark it "telegram," and attach the tariff rate in postage stamps, and when these stamps are not at once to be had, these messages may even be sent unpaid or insufficiently, in which case the transmission fee is to be collected from the party receiving it, or if the same can not be found, from the sender. This faculty, however, only holds good thus far from the German Empire, exclusive of Bavaria, Wurtemberg and of foreign countries.

Third Class Matter.

We have received the following letter from a kindergarten postmaster, out in Kansas. He is the assistant at Fredonia:

> "On page 13, of your first issue, I notice you put photographs as third class matter. You also state the rate on third class matter to be *one cent* for two ounces. We respectfully refer you to the January *Postal Guide*, of 1884, page 498, ruling 471, where photographs are placed as *fourth* class. Also to the July *Guide*, page 8, Order No. 85, where we find that *third* class matter is rated at *one* cent for every *four* ounces.
>
> Respectfully,
> M. T. CANTRELL."

We admit that we were in error in regard to photographs, which should be rated as *fourth* class matter, but the mistake occurred by copying our rates of domestic postages from the *Postal Guide* itself. Our young friend is wrong, however, as to the rate of postage on third class matter. It is ONE CENT FOR EACH TWO OUNCES OR *fraction* THEREOF.

There appears to be a misunderstanding, even among postmasters, as to the act of Congress, approved June 9, 1884, relative to persons other than publishers mailing newspapers at one cent for four ounces. This law does not apply to ordinary third class matter, but *only* to publications that have been regularly entered as second class matter.

In response to an invitation from the United States Post-office Department to take part in the exhibit of postal appliances at the New Orleans Exposition, the Canadian Post-office Department has replied that the department will take pleasure in contributing any articles in connection with the postal service of Canada that may appear to be worthy of a place in such an exhibition as that contemplated.

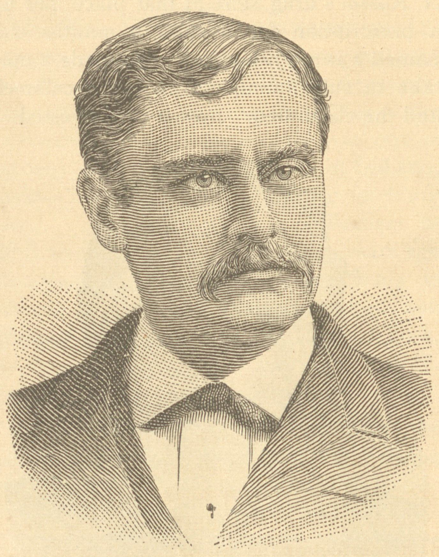
Letter Address.

A letter bearing the following address was recently deposited in the post-office at Baird, Texas:

"Oh, bear me away at a rapid rate
To Comanche County, in Texas State,
And at Sipe Springs Post-office let me be
Till Maggie Morris calls for me."

Postmaster-General Hatton has received an application of the city of Brockton, Mass., for the free delivery service.

Ten hundred and forty-five subscriptions from postmasters in Illinois, up to this time (October 18), entitle those gentlemen to our gratitude.



HON. FRANK HATTON, OF IOWA,

POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

The above is a very excellent portrait of Postmaster-General Hatton, engraved especially for our paper. We give on page 23 of this issue some particulars of Mr. Hatton's appointment, and some newspaper notices.

Postmaster-General Hatton was born at Cambridge, Ohio, in the year 1846. He commenced life as a printer, doing his first work in his father's office. He entered the Union army as a *private soldier* and served 'till the close of hostilities, being promoted to a Lieutenantcy. At the close of the war he became local editor upon the newspaper owned by his father, and continued to act in that capacity at Cambridge, and afterwards at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. When his father died he became proprietor of that paper and also its principal editor. In 1874 he purchased a half interest in the Burlington *Hawkeye* and soon succeeded to the full ownership. Under his management the *Hawkeye* became one of the foremost republican papers of the country and a power in local and national politics. Mr. Hatton was appointed postmaster at Burlington, by President Hayes and First Assistant Postmaster-General by President Arthur.

It is safe to say that the postal department of the Government will be well administered under General Hatton, as he brings to his new position a ripe experience in postal affairs and a thorough knowledge of the wants of the service. His appointment was not the result of *luck* or of political preferment, but of clear ability and brains. As he is but thirty-eight years of age, we would not be surprised if he was not some day raised to even a higher position than the one he now occupies.

The United States Mail extends its compliments and best wishes.

The Custom House Examiner of foreign mail, at the New York post-office, seized forty-one large diamonds, valued at $10,000, found in the mails of the steamer Brittania.

The Hon. H. H. Bingham, member of Congress from Philadelphia, was the postmaster of that city a few years ago. He is one of the most efficient members of the House, and has performed splendid work as a member of the post-office committee.

Postmaster Fulweiler, of Jacksonville, Pa., has a rifle that did good service in the French and Indian, the Revolutionary, and the "1812" wars. Eight red coats were killed with it in one day below Allentown. The rifle goes to the oldest son of each generation, provided he remains in Pennsylvania.

Business men should be very careful exactly to prepay letters and packages, for many have been lost through carelessness in this respect. In many instances letters really are properly stamped, but being done at the last moment, the stamp does not have time to dry, and consequently drops off or adheres to some foreign substance, and is spoiled.

They have a queer way of distributing the American mail in Constantinople. A sovereign citizen sojourning in that city says that the first intimation he had of the presence of a postman was a voice calling him, "Sir, come here!" As he approached the postman that functionary held a bag bottom up over the top of a hogshead and poured out its contents, which included pamphlets, papers, and letters, in an indiscriminate mass. After the bag was emptied the postman called to the bystanders, most of whom were Americans, to look over the pile and take out what belonged to them, while he visited a neighboring cafe and refreshed himself. The Turkish Government evidently presumes that all men are honest; but whatever may be the success of this method of delivering the mail in Turkey, most other nations could not safely adopt it.

Congressional Post-office Committees.

Their Home Address.

SENATE.

Nathaniel P. Hill, Chairman, Denver, Colorado.
Philetus Sawyer, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
William Mahone, Petersburg, Virginia.
Thomas W. Palmer, Detroit, Michigan.
James F. Wilson, Fairfield, Iowa.
Samuel B. Maxey, Paris, Texas.
Eli Saulsbury, Dover, Delaware.
James B. Groome, Elkton, Maryland.
Howell E Jackson, Jackson, Tennessee.

HOUSE.

Hernando D. Money, Chairman, Winona, Mississippi.
Seaborn Reese. Sparta, Georgia.
James M. Riggs, Winchester, Illinois.
John H. Rogers, Fort Smith, Arkansas.
Charles R. Skinner, Watertown, New York.
David R. Paige, Akron, Ohio.
John Cosgrove, Booneville, Missouri.
Henry H. Bingham, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
James H. Jones, Henderson, Texas.
James B. Wakefield, Blue Earth City, Minnesota.
Thomas B. Ward, LaFayette, Indiana.
John D. White, Manchester, Kentucky.

"The Fast Mail in North Carolina."

There are three conditions absolutely necessary to national progress and prosperity, and those conditions necessitate the presence of Republicans, of money, and of railroads. Where we find the first in the ascendency, we are sure to find the other two; but there is never any marked development of the second or third, unless there is an abundance of the first. All three go hand in hand to bless the nation, each one being inseparable from the other.

In North Carolina there are but few of the first, and as a legitimate result, there is but a precious little of the second and almost none of the third. That is the reason why our illustration on the last page of this paper, entitled "The Fast Mail in North Carolina," is so strikingly suggestive of progress in that State. Railroads are few and far between, and the mails are transported upon the backs of mules at the rate of two miles an hour.

If the reader will recall to mind the speed of some of the fast mail trains in the North as they whiz by in a cloud of smoke, shaking the very earth by their tremendous velocity, and then look upon the picture presented in this issue of The United States Mail, the two distinct civilizations in this country will become very apparent.

Our colored friend who carries the mail in North Carolina has stopped on his route for refreshments, and after partaking of them, has lain down for repose. His mule does not appear to be sharing in the repast, or to have done so, but stands waiting patiently to resume the journey. While he sleeps complacently in the forest, the people go on, in their usual quiet way, not caring whether the mails are late or whether they come at all.

A nice little package of wedding cake was deposited in the Cincinnati post-office on Monday, October 20th, addressed to John C. Hill, St. Paul, Minn. We regret exceedingly that Mr. Hill will never have the pleasure of eating that cake, as it was placed in a paper box, and cake wrapped in that manner is unmalable, and is sent to the Dead Letter Office. It should have been put into a tin or wooden box.

We learn from Postmaster Griscom, of Chattanooga, that Harry Dunn, for ten years a railroad postal clerk on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, died in Nashville on the 19th. Mr. Griscom says he was a modest but conscientious public servant.

Obituary Notices.

We will take pleasure in devoting ten lines of an obituary notice to all reputable persons who die connected with the postal service. A record of this kind would be a just compliment to a worthy class of persons. Don't forget this.

The Postmaster at Milledgeville, Ga., is also a dealer in fancy chickens. He prints them in red on his letter-heads.

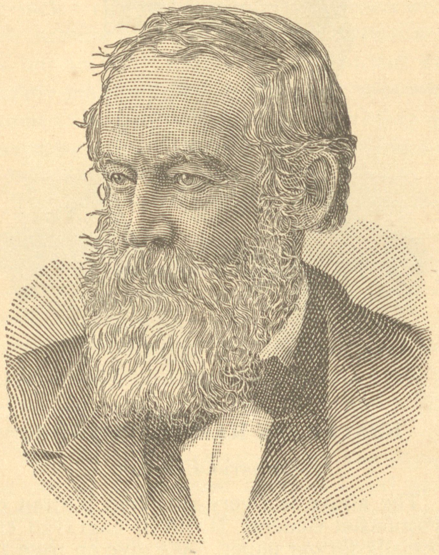
An absent-minded man called at the general delivery of the Cincinnati Post-office, one day lately, and inquired:

"Is there a letter for me to-day?"

"What is your name?" answered the clerk.

"My name!" responded the man, putting his hand up to his brow! "Well, darn me if I haven't forgotten what my name is. Let me think awhile, and he stepped to one side, and looked very longingly out of the window, until he could recover himself.

Charles H. Brown, the Postmaster at Irvington, N. Y., who is also a clerk in F. A. Russel's drug store at that place, put up a prescription for a child 5 months old, named Fannie J. Knodel. He made a mistake in substituting morphine for calomel, and the child died. Brown was arrested.



JAMES H. MARR.

THE VETERAN OF THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

We are much pleased to present a portrait of this veteran of the Post-office Department, James H. Marr, now acting (Oct. 22d) as First Assistant Postmaster-General. It was engraved especially for The United States Mail, and is a life-like representation of the good old man.

Mr. Marr entered the Post-office Department in 1831, when General Jackson was President, and has been in continual service ever since. Wm. T. Barry, of Kentucky, was Postmaster-General, and since that time he has served under twenty-four Postmaster-Generals.

When Mr. Marr entered the service there were not eight thousand post-offices in the United States, and the entire revenues of the department were but $4,000,000 a year. The postage on single letters, on four hundred miles and over, was 25 cents, while 6 cents was the lowest rate.

Mr. Marr was born in Maryland in 1810, and though now seventy-four years of age, is in fair health and is able to perform a good day's work. His salary has been $2,000 a year since 1867, but last winter Congress passed a special act fixing his compensation at $2,500 per annum.

Only two other men living have been longer in the employ of the Government than Mr. Marr, one being Mr. Hunter, of the State Department, and the other, a colored janitor in the Navy Department. We trust this good old man will live many years to come to enjoy the society of his friends.

The postmaster at Garnett, Ind., has been arrested for detaining German democratic newspapers in his office.

Letters addressed to fictitious persons or firms must not be delivered, but returned at the end of each month to the dead letter office.

Bondsmen are not liabel for the "stealings" of postmasters unless suit is entered by the Government within three years after the closing of the accounts.

Postmasters are expected to report to the Postmaster-General, promptly, every delinquency, neglect, or malpractice of contractors, their agents or carriers.

After a postal card has reached its destination it may be forwarded to any other office at the request of the party addressed, without additional charge for postage.

The published report that Mr. Henry Muller, the handsome and accomplished Assistant Postmaster at Cincinnati, is to be married soon, is not warranted by the facts. Mr. Muller is too busy to marry or to *think* of marrying.

The report of the post-office Department shows that the success of two-cent postage surpasses expectation; and this warrants the prediction that the day is coming, with the improvements of mail facilities and the rapid increase of population, when letters will go for one cent.—*Times-Star*.

Old man Boyd, who carries the mail from Mainville, Warren County, Ohio, to the Sixteen-Mile Stand, in Hamilton County, is now past eighty years of age. He makes a round-trip of sixteen miles every day except Sunday, and does it for $400 a year. He travels in a sulky.

General Chas. E. Brown, who has just been elected to Congress from the Second District of Cincinnati, was once for five years the postmaster at Chillicothe, Ohio, and he was a good one, too. He will be a good man to succeed Dave Paige, of Ohio, on the post-office committee.

The postmaster at Foster's Crossing, Ohio, has a good many irons in the fire at one time. In addition to working for Uncle Sam he runs a grocery, is a coal dealer, has a truck farm, and sells candy and pop corn at State and county fairs. His wife has a flock of four hundred chickens.

John H. Simpson, for many years assistant cashier of the St. Louis post-office, but since August 1 superintendent of the Stamp Department, died recently at his home. Mr. Simpson was for ten years in the employ of the office, and died at the age of 65. Gen. Simpson, brother of the deceased, is superintendent of the Money Order Division. He was a very patient, painstaking man, and in his day was one of the most useful men in the office. He suffered for a long time with a tumor that ended his life.

Visiting Cards.

Particular attention is called to the letter of the First Assistant Postmaster-General, addressed to the Postmaster at Cincinnati, which we publish on page 31. It makes plain some misunderstood points.

Paper of any kind pasted on the back of postal cards will subject them to letter postage.

The salary of the postmaster at Topnot, North Carolina, is 90 cents a year. His income can hardly be said to be *tip-top*.

There are one thousand and sixty-four persons in the postal service named Smith. "It occurs to us we have heard that name before."

Whenever you see any thing in the newspapers which would have any interest to the postal fraternity, cut it out and send it to us, please.

The fixtures in the new Cincinnati post-office will be supplied by the Robert Mitchell Furniture Co., of this city. The building will be ready for occupancy early in January.

James M. Folger, postmaster at Mantua Station, Portage County, Ohio, was arrested on Tuesday, October 22, for stealing $1,000 in postal order funds. He was not a subscriber to this paper.

Mr. Gilbert D. Fox, the accomplished clerk of the United States Senate post-office committee, assures us that he will take an active interest in The United States Mail, and expresses the opinion that we are "on the right track."

Our schedule of postage has been carefully revised and enlarged so that all may understand its provisions. It is our purpose, however, to spread it over a page in our December issue, and, by that means, make it still more plain and unmistakable.

It is expected of postmasters that they will use a legitimate influence in recommending the money order system, and, by courteous attention to the inquiries of applicants, exhibit its superiority as a safe method of transmitting small sums of money through the mails.

Mr. A. Burt succeeds C. J. French as superintendent of the Fifth Division of the Railway Mail Service. From what we hear of Mr. Burt we would say that he will be a great improvement upon his predecessor. He may not look into the lunch baskets of railway postal clerks to ascertain whether they eat ham or mutton, but he will be watchful of the service all the same.

Postmaster-General Hatton has issued an order to all post-office Inspectors that in future they must not, under any circumstances, borrow money or receive advances on their pay from postmasters, and that to do so will be considered sufficient cause for dismissal from service. The order is intended to correct abuses that have sprung up in the service that tend to the establishment of improper relations between the inspectors and the postmasters whose affairs they are required to investigate.

Credit for postage stamps in country offices should be discarded. When a postmaster is told to "charge them to my box," he should most respectfully decline. Some new postmasters, in order to be excessively accommodating to the public, often disregard the postal laws, and not only give credit for stamps, but also for quarterly postage and for box rent, and often go so far as to "lick" the stamps, and do not see how foolish they have been until they get swindled out of a few hundred dollars.

Mr. Wm. S. Lingle, postmaster at LaFayette, Indiana, died suddenly at Milwaukee, Wis., September 1st, of fatty degeneration of the heart. He was also editor of the LaFayette Daily *Courier*, and was one of the best known newspaper men in Indiana, having been editor of the *Courier* for thirty years. He was appointed postmaster in 1877 and again in 1882. Four years ago his eldest son died almost as suddenly as himself. Last February the second son dropped dead while on a visit to New York. Mr. Lingle was fifty-one years old last St. Patrick's Day.

A rough-looking customer went up to the general delivery of a post-office in Arizona and inquired:

"Do you *lick* stamps here?"

"No, we don't lick *stamps* here, but we do *lick* fellows like you every morning before breakfast!"

"You do, hey!" said the stranger, "well, how would you like to *lick* that?" pointing a revolver through the window at the head of the postmaster.

"Just about as well as you like these," and quicker than lightning two immense double-barreled *pops* were thrust into his face, seeing which the fellow skedaddled in double-quick. Business is business in Arizona.

A Misapprehension.

There is an idea current that it is illegal for a private individual to carry a sealed letter. This is a mistake. The post-office department nor any other department can lay a restriction of that character upon a citizen. If it could, it could also stop all verbal messages. No; our Government is more liberal than it sometimes gets credit for. Railroads and express companies carry their own correspondence right alongside of mail-bags, and telegraph companies are permitted to send private messages past hundreds of post-offices at a jump. So, if anybody, for instance, wants to enclose and seal $2.00 for The United States Mail and send by private hands, let the latter deliver, and we will be willing to stand a test case.

Reading Postal Cards.

A lady postmistress was asked, not long since, why it was that the mails were so much delayed of late. "Indeed, sir," said she, "there are so many of these postal cards for me to read that it takes my whole time, so that I can't attend to the mails." "Great heavens, woman! you don't pretend to read all the postal cards deposited in your office, do you?" said the anxious inquirer. "Why of course I do," innocently answered the lady official, "for as nothing scurrilous, obscene, or wicked must be written on them, I must first read them myself in order to ascertain whether it would be proper to let them pass through the office. I stand here as a sentinel upon the watch-tower to guard the morals of the community. Business is only secondary to purity and virtue. To read these postal cards I am determined; yes, and carefully, too."

Stealing our Papers.

The United States Mail is suffering terribly from the pilfering of railway postal clerks, who, seeing the paper in the mails, appropriate it and put it in their pockets; in other words, *steal it*. Postmasters are complaining of the non-arrival of their paper, and even in some instances the *second* copy has failed to reach them. We give the County and State in addressing the wrappers, and there is no reason why a single copy should fail to go straight where it belongs. *It will not do to repeat these outrages.*

A Letter From Home.

When the heart is very dreary,
Growing sadly over-weary
Of the bonds that keep it lonely
Like a bird in wicker dome,
Comes a messenger most cheery,
Though it be a letter only,
For a mother wrote that "dearie,"
And it bringeth news from home.

"News from home!" oh, welcome letter!
Strong in power to break the fetter
That encircles her who labors
Far away from all held dear.
Yet it proves the proverb truly,
Tells that joy and grief are neighbors;
For from eyes that grow unruly
Slowly wells a glist'ning tear.

Present sorrows wings are taking,
Pleasant memories are waking,
And life's sun bedecks with splendor
Her whom duty called to roam:
Yet the sympathy that's hidden
In those lines so sweet and tender
Makes the tears rise up unbidden
O'er the welcome "news from home."

Her Last Letter.

'Tis but a line, a hurried scrawl,
And little seem the words to say,
Yet hold me in reproachful thrall:
"You quarrelled with me yesterday:
To-morrow you'll be sad."

Ay, "you'll be sad"—the words are few,
And yet they pierce my soul with pain;
Ay, "you'll be sad"—the words are true;
They haunt me with prophetic strain:
"To-morrow you'll be sad."

We quarrelled, and for what?—a word,
A foolish speech that jarred the ear,
And thus in wrath our pulses stirred;
Then came her letter: "Dear, my dear,
To-morrow you'll be sad."

Few words! half mirth, and half regret,
The last her hand should ever write—
Sad words! learned long ago, and yet
Fresh with new pain to ear and sight:
"To-morrow you'll be sad."

A Letter Address.

To Durham village let this go,
To John Burhane's daughter,
In Green County, beyond the flow
Of Hudson's rolling water.

A Mail Robber Captured.

Washington, October 25.—Chief Inspector Sharp has been informed of the arrest in Rocky Mount, Va., by Inspector Henderson, of John V. Brown, husband of the Postmistress, for rifling registered letters. Brown made a confession. The amounts stolen are large and have extended over three months.

Answers to Correspondents.

Questions pertaining to the postal service will be answered in this column, and should be written on separate pieces of paper from business correspondence.

9. BURT. Dunmore, Pa. Is a postal note drawn by an order office on one that is *not* an order office negotiable? In other words, shall we pay a postal note drawn on us when we are *not* an order office?

A postal note drawn by the Cincinnati office on your office would not be worth the paper it is printed on. How can you act as a postal note or money order office when you have not been designated by the department as such and supplied with blanks, instructions, etc., necessary to a proper transaction of the business?

10. S. J. W., Cordova, Ills. Has the department commenced paying off postmasters yet under the act of March 3. 1883, readjusting salaries; or will they have to be collected through attorneys?

The act was passed and the department is proceeding under its provisions. There is no occasion to employ attorneys, but correspond with the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

11. GEO. S MOORE. Keosauqua, Ia. Which was the first free delivery office in this country?

The free delivery was not established in any *one* city first, but in thirty or forty at the same time, in 1863. Before that the penny post system was in operation, any person receiving mail in that way paying one cent on each letter.

12. G. B., Upper Sandusky, O. Will you please explain the meaning of G 5 and H 5, just above the word signature on the new postal note? Nearly all the upper notes are marked G 5 and the lower ones, H 5. Occasionally both are marked G 6, H 6.

These are private designations of the accounting office of the department. The postal notes are printed and delivered in certain quantities and those letters and figures denote the lot to which they belong. We have in our possession several hundred postal notes, received last week, and the designations on them run from A 4 to H 6. Every letter from A to G appears among them.

13. W. C. HALL. Dixon, Cal. How can I get credit on a postal note issued by me on an office not designated as a postal note office?

Postal notes are payable at the issuing or the paying office, so that all you will have to do will be to pay it just as you would any other, and lose the fee of three cents.

14. L. A., Metropolitan, Mich. On page 13 of your paper you give the rate of postage on third class matter at one cent for two ounces or fraction thereof. Order 85 on page 8 of the July *Postal Guide* fixes the rate at one cent for *four* ounces. Which is right?

The order referred to has reference only to newspapers of the *second* class when sent by *others* than publishers; but you must remember that there are *other articles* than newspapers included in *third* class matter. While the Governor of Ohio may step into a book store and purchase a copy of United States Mail and mail it at the rate of *one* cent for *four* ounces, yet if he were to mail a book or a speech, printed or in manuscript, he would have to pay at the rate of *one* cent for each *two* ounces. Nor must it be forgotten that there is a large number of publications, daily, weekly and monthly, that have *not* been entered as *second* class matter, and cannot be so entered for the reason that their character and object acts as a bar to their being accepted by the department.

15. J. W. LANEY, Lockhart, Tex. Why is it that the department uses so many cyphers in numbering the postal notes of the new series? For example, No. 501 is expressed thus, 000.501.

The reason the cyphers appear is because the numbering machine necessitates it. There is no other reason for it.

16. C. S., Orland, Ind. Please let me know if a postmaster can forward papers and other transient matter to subscribers and deliver it free of postage?, or, if so forwarded, should he (the P. M.) not collect postage thereon?

No, he cannot do so, not unless it is *prepaid* at regular third or fourth class rates, whatever the article may be. A bill was prepared last winter and introduced into the House, providing for the forwarding of third and fourth class matter just the same as *undelivered* letters, but it failed to pass.

17. J. F. F., Lykins, Pa. Did you not err in giving the rates of postage on page 13 of your October issue? Under the head of third class matter you include photographs. Was not that put in class four some time ago?

Yes, we were in error. Photographs are rated now as fourth class matter. Our new schedule, as printed in this paper, is absolutely correct.

18. JOHN GORDON, Summitville, Ind. Please give us your understanding of the Postmaster-General's ruling in regard to readjustment of postmasters' salaries, as presented in the July *Guide*, 1883, whether it effects postmasters of the fourth class or not?

It is certainly intended to embrace offices of the fourth class.

19. F. S. R., Reed's Landing, Minn. Allow a subscriber to ask where your paper gets its figures for so extravagant a showing of $74,505,045 56 as the annual money order business of the New York post-office? Are the figures to be taken with some degree of allowance for expansion when writing about huge affairs?

The figures as published by us were taken from the New York *Tribune*, and were originally furnished by the New York post-office. There was no misstatement or exaggeration, but they are absolutely correct, down to the fraction of a cent.

20. JOHN INMAN, Somerset, Ky. My salary as postmaster is $1,100 a year There are five Star Routes which intersect at this office for which I separate the mail. For this service I am allowed a distributing clerk at $150 a year. I am also required to keep a money order clerk at my own expense; at least, that is my understanding of the Postal Laws and Regulations that govern the matter It seems to me that my separating clerk could fill both these positions and save me a considerable, and, I think, unnecessary expense. I would like the views of The United States Mail on this subject.

The money order fees collected at a money order office are intended to be full compensation for money order service. No part of the funds allowed for clerk hire can be used for paying a money order clerk. We suggest that you yourself perform the work of issuing money orders, and thus save what you *now* pay to your money order clerk.

21. ASHLAND. What is the rate of postage on printed cards? I have an impression that it is one cent per ounce, but cannot find it now.

The rate of postage on common business cards is one cent an ounce. They are rated as merchandise, and belong to the fourth class. We refer you, and all other postmasters, however, to a letter from the Postmaster-General to the postmaster at Cincinnati, bearing upon this subject, which we publish in this issue.

22. F P. MACK, Newell, Ia I took charge of this office January 15, 1879, and have had the mail for two stage routes to make up and distribute, necessitating a great deal of extra work and expense, for which I received no compensation up to January 1, 1884 Since that time I have been allowed $200 a year for clerk hire. Now, what I want to know is how can I proceed to get the department to allow me for the work done prior to January, 1884?

If you paid out any money for help in performing the extra service prior to that time, you should present your case, with vouchers, to the First Assistant Postmaster-General; but if you sustained no pecuniary loss, the chances for recovering anything are not good. At least, don't buy a house and lot on the supposition that you will be reimbursed, because you *might* fail.

23. E. E. GREEN, Clarksville, Tenn. In your postage rates on page 13 you place photographs as third class matter. Are they not fourth class? You have transient newspapers under the head of third class also. They are third class, I suppose, but the rate is not *now* one cent for each two ounces.

We refer you to Nos. 14 and 17 of this correspondence for a reply to your inquiry.

24. J. F. RALL, Iowa Falls, Ia. Would like some space in your paper in relation to supplements of country newspapers.

Your letter will be published in our next issue.

25. ROTATION, Cincinnati What will become of all the old maid clerks in the Cincinnati post-office when Cleveland is elected?

There are no old maids in the Cincinnati post-office. There are some very competent *young* ladies engaged there, who, if Cleveland is elected, will be handed down to Postmaster Whitfield's successor just as they were handed down to him. But then Cleveland is not elected yet.

26. FELIX, Milwaukee, Wis. What about the postmaster's wife at Medford, Wis.? Do you propose to give her portrait?

The postmaster at Medford is a very worthy gentleman, and has secured a divorce from his wife; and after mature deliberation we came to the conclusion that it would be unfair to him to make his family troubles so prominent by giving his wife's portrait.

27. BELLE B. I am the postmaster here, and have been for three years. The office was given to me because my father was a soldier and he was too infirm to work. I am thinking of getting married to a school teacher here Do you think it would be the means of getting me out of the office?

Yes, we think it would. Your marriage would change the conditions which caused the post-office to be given to you, and if you marry the politicians will try and get it from you. You will have to give up your prospective husband or the post-office. It is sad, but nevertheless a fact.

28. PENMAN, St. Louis. Do you think I could get a position in the post-office department at Washington? You see I am an expert penman, and I am fine in figures.

You would have to undergo a civil service examination to get in, and even if you passed, there are thousands ahead of you. Better remain in St. Louis.

29. THIRD CLASS. Do you really think we poor postmasters of the third class can ever hope for relief in the way of having the department pay our expenses?

We think you may. Postmaster-General Hatton is a warm friend of you fellows, and will do all he can to aid you, but there must be *action* upon your part and *concert* of action at that. Let a committee of fifty postmasters meet in Washington on the second Monday in December and present their grievances to Congress. In the meantime use our columns.

30. LETTER-CARRIER, Buffalo. How many cities are having the free delivery system, and how many letter-carriers are there in all?

In 154 cities. The total number of carriers employed is 3,680.

31. COLORED CARRIER. Are there any colored Postmasters in the United States?

We only know of one, Wm. F. Young, Littleton, N. C.

32. ANXIOUS, Detroit, Mich. Will you succeed in your enterprise? How many subscribers have you?

There is no such word as fail! We considered this enterprise too fully to fail in it, and have made the greatest newspaper success of this generation. There is no occasion to state our circulation, for it is so large that if we did tell you you wouldn't believe it.

33. LADY READER. Is Frank Hatton married?

Well, we are sorry, but, to tell the truth, we don't know. Had your inquiry come sooner we would have ascertained.

DOMESTIC POSTAGE.

A CAREFULLY REVISED SCHEDULE.

There are four Classes of mail matter, divided as follows:

First Class.—*a*, letters; *b*, all matter wholly in writing (except manuscript for publication, *when accompanied by proof*, corrected or not); *c*, matter partly in print and partly in writing (certain exceptions noted below); *d*, packages so wrapped, sealed or secured that their contents can not be readily examined. THE RATE OF POSTAGE ON MAIL MATTER OF THIS CLASS IS TWO CENTS PER HALF OUNCE OR FRACTION THEREOF.

Drop Letters.—Drop letters require postage at the rate of two cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof at letter carrier offices, and one cent at all other offices.

Second Class.—This embraces newspapers, magazines and other periodicals issued at stated intervals, not exceeding three months, dated and numbered, having a list of legitimate subscribers, and not designed primarily for advertising purposes, nor for circulation free, or at nominal subscription rates. When sent by the publishers or news agents, the rate of postage is two cents per pound, payable in currency; and when sent by others, one cent for each four ounces, payable by postage stamps. The above rates apply also to foreign publications of the same character as those named above. When Second Class matter is mailed by others than publishers or news agents, the postage is one cent for each four ounces or fraction.

Sample Copies at Second Class Rates.—After a publication has been determined to be of second-class, sample copies of the same may be sent from the office of publication at the second-class (pound) rate.

Third Class.—This embraces printed books, pamphlets, circulars, engravings, lithographs, proof-sheets and manuscript accompanying the same, transient newspapers and periodicals (except those belonging in the second-class) and all matter of the same general character, the printing on which is designed to instruct, amuse, cultivate the mind or taste, or impart general information, and not having the character of personal correspondence. Circulars produced by hektograph or similar process, or by electric pen, are rated as third class. Upon matter of this class, or on its wrapper, the sender may write his own name, preceded by the word "from;" may mark any printed passage to call attention to it; may write date of mailing, address and signature of circulars, correct typographical errors, and write on cover or blank leaf of any book or of any other printed article of the third class, a simple dedication or presentation inscription not in the nature of personal correspondence. (See also note below.) No other writing is permitted in or on third class matter. The limit of weight for mail matter of the third class is four pounds, except in the case of single books exceeding that weight. THE RATE OF POSTAGE ON MAIL MATTER OF THE THIRD CLASS IS ONE CENT FOR EACH TWO OUNCES OR FRACTION THEREOF.

Newspapers and Periodical Publications of the Second Class, when sent by other than the publisher or news agents, are mailable at the rate of one cent for each four ounces or fractional part thereof.

Daily and Weekly Papers and Monthly Magazines are generally Second Class publications, and usually bear on the title pages the words "Entered at the Post-office at—— as Second Class Matter." They are subject to the above rate; but publications which are intended for advertising purposes or for free distribution, and circulars, books and other miscellaneous printed matter of a similar nature, are chargeable with Third Class rates, *i. e.*, one cent for each two ounces or fractional part thereof.

Printed Circulars—May bear the date, of mailing address, and signature in writing at third class rates.

Reproduction by Electric Pen and other Processes.—Reproductions from originals produced by the electric pen, papyrograph, metalograph, and cheirograph processes, are entitled to pass in the mails in unsealed envelopes as third class matter.

Fourth Class.—All matter not embraced in the First, Second or Third Class—including merchandise, samples of merchandise, and other articles not liable to destroy, deface or damage other mail matter, or to harm the person of any one in the postal service, and not excluded by law from the mails. Sharp instruments, articles wholly or partly of glass, and other things which, if not properly secured, might damage the mails or harm any person handling them, must be first securely wrapped or cased, and then safely packed in hard wood or metal boxes with screw lids or secured by clasp or slide. Persons in doubt as to the admissibility of articles they desire to mail will probably save unnecessary trouble and expense by submitting the same at the post-office, where they will receive correct information on the subject. Upon any package of Fourth Class matter the sender may write or print his own name and address, preceded by the word "from," and may also write or print thereon the *number* (quantity) and *names* of the articles inclosed; and one mark, number, name, or letter (*for purpose of identification only*) may be written on any article of the Fourth Class, or upon a tag or label attached to it. Price and size of the article may be *printed or stamped* on such tag or label; but more than ONE *written* mark, number, name, or letter, will subject the package to postage at *letter rates*. The limit of weight for packages of Fourth Class matter is Four Pounds. THE RATE OF POSTAGE ON MAIL MATTER OF THE FOURTH CLASS IS ONE CENT FOR EACH OUNCE OR FRACTION THEREOF.

Unmailable.—Liquids, poisons, explosives, oils, ointments, pastes, fresh fruits, animals, alive or dead, articles having an offensive odor, obscene and indecent books, prints or other articles, and envelopes, postal cards or packages on which obscene and indecent addresses or messages appear, are absolutely excluded from the mails.

Note.—On any package of Third or Fourth Class matter there may be written or printed a request in the following or similar form: "If undelivered, P. M. please notify —— —— ——, and stamps for return postage will be forwarded." Letters only are returned *free* to writers.

A Postal Deficiency.

The Sixth Auditor has prepared a statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Post-office Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1884, from which it appears that the expenditures amounted to $46,411,772, made up as follows: Third quarter 1883, $11,606,251; fourth quarter 1883, $11,492,965; first quarter 1884, $11,628,958; second quarter 1884, $11,683,596. The receipts exclusive of money order revenve, were $42,818,635, made up by quarters, as follows: Third quarter 1883, $10,595,867; fourth quarter 1883, $11,159,616; first quarter 1884, $10,843,568; second quarter 1884, $10,219,582. The account reveals a deficiency of $3,593,137 for the year, which is attributed to the reduced postal rate. The department last year had a surplus of $2,653,189. This year's deficiency, however, will be reduced about $400,000 by the money order revenues.

Foreign Postage.

The rates of postage to the countries named below (which with the United States and Canada, compose the "Universal Postal Union") are as follows:

On Letters, 5 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof—prepayment optional. Double rates are collected on delivery of unpaid or short-paid letters.

On newspapers, books, pamphlets, photographs sheet music, maps, engravings, and similar printed matter, 1 cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

On Commercial Papers (such as deeds and other legal and business documents, printed or written, and not in the nature of personal correspondence) 5 cents for the first 10 ounces and 1 cent for every additional 2 ounces. On Samples of Merchandise, 2 cents for the first 4 ounces and 1 cent for every additional 2 ounces. All correspondence except letters must be at least partially prepaid.

Argentine Republic,
Austria-Hungary,
Bahamas,
Barbados,
Belgium,
Bermudas,
Brazil,
British Colonies, West Coast of Africa and West Indies,
British Guiana,
British Honduras,
British India.
Bulgaria,
Ceylon,
Chili,
Colombia, U. S. of,
Costa Rico,
Danish Colonies of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John,
Denmark,
Dominica,
Dutch Colonies,
Ecuador,
Egypt,
Falkland Islands,
France (and Algeria),
French Colonies,
Germany,
Great Britain and Ireland,
Greece,
Greenland,
Guatemala,
Hayti,
Holland,
Honduras.
Hong Kong,
Italy,
Jamaica,
Japan,
Labuan,
Liberia,
Luxemburg,
Mauritius,
Mexico,
Montenegro,
Newfoundland,
Nicaragua,
Norway,
Paraguay,
Persia,
Peru,
Portugal and Colonies,
Roumania,
Russia,
Salvador,
Sandwich Islands,
Servia,
Spain and Colonies,
Straits Settlements,
Sweden,
Switzerland,
Trinidad,
Turkey,
Uruguay,
Venezuela.

To Canada (including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Prince Edward Island): Letters, 2 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof; Books, Circulars, and similar printed matter, 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof; Second Class Matter, same as in the United States; Samples of Merchandise (no dutiable articles or articles of intrinsic value admitted), 10 cents for each package, which must not exceed 8 ounces in weight—prepayment compulsory.

To Australia (except New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria) *via* San Francisco: On Letters, 5 cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof; on Newspapers, 2 cents each—prepayment compulsory.

For Rates and Conditions to other Countries, see Bulletins in Corridors of Post-Office and Branches.

Limits of Size and Weight: Packages of samples of merchandise to the countries named above (except Great Britain, France, Belgium and Switzerland) must not exceed 8¾ ounces in weight, nor measure more than 8 inches in length, 4 inches in breadth, and two inches in depth; and packages of printed matter must not exceed 4 pounds 6 ounces in weight. Packages of merchandise samples to Great Britain, France, Belgium and Switzerland, are limited to 12 ounces in weight, 12 inches in length, 8 inches in width, and 4 inches in depth. Packages of printed matter to Germany and Great Britain are limited to 2 feet in length 1 foot in each other dimension.

A CLERK in the Indianapolis post-office is now in the last stages of drouth, occasioned by his own gallantry in volunteering to lick and adjust postage stamps for the young ladies who come to his window. He is very charming, and Indianapolis is full of good-looking girls, who love dearly to see him run out his tongue and moisten a stamp. The doctor says, unless he can start the sap in his system, he is a "goner."

Send in your subscription.

Correspondence.

Communications from all branches of the postal service are solicited, and if readable, will be published. We do not wish it understood, however, that we engage to become responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

Rejected manuscripts will not be returned unless postage is prepaid.

A Leaf From My Diary.

(Special correspondence UNITED STATES MAIL.)

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Oct. 10.—"Will you please walk in, Mr. D. would like to see you."

It being a very cold day, I cheerfully complied, and, taking a seat near the register, I awaited the coming of the owner of the palatial Washington Avenue residence. In a few moments he came down the stairs, and placing his hand on my shoulder, said: "My friend, excuse me for delaying you on your route, but I am very much annoyed by the failure of your post-office to deliver two letters which I mailed last evening. The letters were sent to business men, whose factories are not fifteen minutes' walk from the post-office, and yet at noon to-day they had not been delivered. Now, I think you will agree with me, that it don't speak well for the management of the Brooklyn office." I admitted that if the office was to blame in the matter, that he was justified in his remarks; but perhaps he had not complied with all the requirements of the service. Was he sure the letters were stamped? Oh, there was no doubt on that point, as he never used other than Government-stamped envelopes. Were the addresses correct? Oh, yes, he was certain on that point, too, as he never made any mistakes. The trouble was certainly with the post-office, and he intended to go down and see the postmaster on the following day, and have the matter cleared up.

Taking a memorandum of the addresses that were on the missing letters, I made up my mind that for once I would enforce the old adage, "Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day." On my return to the office I sought Mr. Simonson, who was then Assistant Postmaster, and asked him to see if the letters were held for postage. Sure enough, there they were, and instead of the Government-stamped envelope, the letters were enclosed in two plain white envelopes, such as are used by ladies only. The next morning, true to his promise, Mr. D. entered the Postmaster's office. Mr. Simonson, who was an old friend of his, greeted him kindly, and offering him a chair, listened patiently to the complaint which had been made to the carrier on the day before, and when he had finished he handed him the letters. One glance was enough, and with a hearty laugh, in which Mr. Simonson joined, he explained how he came to make the blunder. When he had finished writing the letters, he made the discovery that he was out of stamped envelopes, and thus taking two from his wife's desk, he addressed them, sealed them up, and handed them to a servant to drop in the letter box at the corner, never for a moment thinking of the stamps.

J. I. D.

A Master of the Post.

(Special correspondence UNITED STATES MAIL.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 10.—The administration of Abraham Lincoln will always be conspicuous in American history, covering, as it did, the entire period of the great civil war, with its sufferings, sacrifices and momentous consequences.

It is not, however, our purpose to dwell on the features of that great struggle, but simply to consider that administration from a postal standpoint.

Under his able Postmaster-General, Hon. Montgomery Blair, seconded by his capable and accomplished assistant, Hon. John A. Kasson, now Minister to Berlin, the service was lifted out of the ruts into which it had settled during its preceding history, and placed on a higher plane of usefulness. Old ideas and modes of doing business were called in question; the good retained, the wrong or inadequate rejected or modified to meet the changed conditions and requirements of the country.

New and radical measures were introduced and carried out in a practical, business-like manner, till the old service was lost in the new.

The free delivery of mail by carriers from house to house, and the collection of matter for mailing from letter-boxes, placed at convenient distances along the streets, was a virtual bringing of the post-office to every man's door, and established the principle that it is not only more convenient to the people, but true economy to transact the postal business of aggregate populations by comparatively few men.

The next great measure was the railway post-office, which assumed the distribution of the mails on the cars while in transit from city to city, thus obviating the delays incident to the old plan of distribution in local post-offices. This plan has greatly expedited the transmission of the mails and facilitated business operations throughout the country.

The money order system has supplanted the old custom of sending small sums of money by bank check, by postage stamps or shin plasters, thereby rendering the transmission of money safe, and lessening the inducements to depredations on the mails.

The registry system, for the safe transmission of papers, and other valuable articles, including money, enabling the sender to get a receipt in return, added greatly to the facility and certainty of business operations.

The old custom of sending a bill with every letter was abolished, thus relieving postmasters and the Auditor of the Department of immense and unnecessary labor, and greatly reducing the work, and teaching the people to trust the mails.

These distinguishing features of the postal service of to-day were inaugurated and placed on a firm footing during the single term of this remarkable administration, and that, too, in the midst of a great war which taxed the resources of the Government to their uttermost. While originality is not claimed for them, it may be justly claimed that few men would have had the courage to undertake such radical reforms under such discouraging circumstances.

Eliminate from the service these distinguishing features, and what remains?

What master of the post has done so much in so short a time?

R. W. G.

Adjustment of Postmasters' Salaries.

(Special Correspondence UNITED STATES MAIL.)

SEPT. 24.—SIR.—Being advised that the columns of your paper are to be opened to the discussion of the question of compensation of postmasters at offices of the third class, I avail myself of the opportunity to express my views upon the subject. I believe I can safely say, at the outset, that the laws and regulations governing postmasters' salaries have never been equitable, or, at least, not for many years, or within the knowledge of the writer; and that nearly if not quite every change in said laws during the past ten or twelve years has been especially detrimental to offices of the third class. The law at present in operation certainly has been, while it has greatly benefitted, in most cases at least, those of the first, second and fourth classes, the proceeds of a large proportion of the latter going entirely to the postmaster. This, however, is not too much, neither is the compensation at offices of the first and second class; and if offices of the third class could be placed on the same basis as the two preceding—as to allowance, viz: having all necessary expense for clerk hire, rent, fuel, lighting, etc., allowed, the law would then be equitable, or reasonably so. Still, as the compensation is based upon the gross receipts of the office, and the public are at liberty to buy their stamps where they please—as of course they should be—and as small amounts in stamps are constantly being sent and received by mail, there must be more or less inequality. A better way of basing the salary, in my opinion, would be to consider the location of the office, the business, population and public schools surrounding it, the mails it separates; in short, the labor involved and capacity required.

For example, a post-office located in a town having or serving a population of not less than 3,500, or more than 4,500, and having public, or public and private, schools within its immediate delivery, with an average attendance of not less than three hundred or more than six hundred scholars, with mercantile, manufacturing, mining or quarrying interests usual in places having such population and surroundings, and separating mails for not less than five or more than ten Star Route, or adjoining offices, the compensation of the postmaster should be $2,000 per annum, and an allowance for all necessary expenses for clerk hire, office rent, warming, lighting, furniture, incidentals, etc., he, of course, devoting his own time to the duties of the office, as at present required. Now it seems perfectly clear to me, upon years of experience and observations, that legislation controlling the compensation and allowance for postmasters at offices of the third class (for I am now speaking in the interests of that class) has been left entirely in the hands of, or controlled by, the Post-office Department, Representatives and Senators. It is time we should wake up to our own interests. Let every postmaster in offices of this class bring the matter promptly, clearly, and earnestly to the attention of their member of Congress, and keep it there until their salary is made to correspond reasonably with the demands upon their time and strength. There is, perhaps, no avocation that taxes the physical and mental energies more heavily where close application is required. It may be said that there is the remedy or alternative of resignation; but that is not the true remedv. The civil service requires and commands integrity and ability—the pay should be adequate. Our Government does not need to economize by half paying those in this or any branch of the civil service. If salaries are to remain based as at present, there should be prompt legislation allowing necessary expenses.

CRESCENT.

How Should Salaries of Postmasters of the Third Class be Computed.

(Special correspondence UNITED STATES MAIL.)

ANDOVER, MASS., Oct. 15.—Before proceeding to argue the question, let it be presumed that the recommendations of the Postmaster-General in regard to consolidating the Postal and Money Order business have been adopted, and that a postmaster may so arrange his work so that it may be done with dispatch, and to the satisfaction of the public; that the box rents (a direct tax on the public) be devoted to the rent, fuel, lights, etc., of the office to which they are paid.

Having thus placed the patrons of a third class office nearer the plane of their more fortunate neighbors in letter-carrier offices, let us inquire how the offices are rated, and the requirements. The postmaster at a third class office must be conversant with, and practically assist in, all the routine work of the office. He must not only superintend, but work. He is accountable for the acts of his subordinates, the funds, must be courteous, always ready to answer any question in regard to postal law, and should devote his whole attention to the business of the post-office. These are the requirements.

The manner of rating offices is on the gross receipts of the office. This mode allows no equitable division of salaries according to work. A college, a publishing house, a seed firm, a gift enterprise, may receive stamps sufficient for their goods to supply a large amount used in the town, and the poor postmaster has the work to do for nothing, his salary reduced, and himself obliged to furnish clerical help to keep up his work. Therefore, if sales are no criterion, what should be the basis?

I reply, the amount of actual work performed should be the principal factor, and a small percentage for handling the U. S. funds both received and paid out in Postal and Money Order business as follows—the percentage to be paid as the Money Order Commissions are now paid, and a sworn statement of the packages handled as follows:—

100,000	pieces handled annually, salary	$1,000,	6th class.
100,000 to 250,000	pcs. handl'd an. salary	$1,500,	5th class.
250,000 to 500,000	" " " "	$2,000,	4th class.
500,000 to 750,000	" " " "	$2,500,	3d class.
750,000 to 1,000,000	" " " "	$3,000,	2d class.

Provided, always, that the salary and commissions shall not exceed the sum of $4,000.

Each class to be rated as 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, as above, and grades of clerks assigned with salaries as per work performed. By this means all complaints of insufficient clerical assistance could not be laid to partiality, and a postmaster would receive a salary in proportion to his responsibility and work. But there will be no change in the existing law until postmasters agree to move together in the matter and insist upon the operations of the present law being fully investigated by a Commission or Congress, to inquire how the efficiency and personel of the post-offices of the country, not furnished with the letter-carrier system, may be improved.

Such a committee should receive the testimony of third and fourth class postmasters from all sections of the country, and not from clerks connected with the Department at Washington, who have no practical acquaintance with the detail work of an office.

WM. MARLAND, P. M.

What a California Postmaster Thinks.

RED BLUFF, TEHAMA CO., CAL.,
Oct. 7, 1884.

Editor U. S. MAIL,

Dear Sir:—The October number of the UNITED STATES MAIL has come to hand, and I can assure you that I extend to it a genuine welcome, and I hope that you may continue it for all time. Every postmaster in the country should have a copy of it each month, but all can not afford it, especially some of those poor fellows whose salary per annum does not amount to the subscription price. There is one question in which a large number of postmasters are interested, and that is the question of allowance to offices of the third class. I am one among the many, and can furnish an example of what is being done in many of the third class offices throughout the Union.

My salary is $1,800 per annum. My expenses are $40 per mouth for rent, light and fuel. I am obliged to have two persons to help me, to whom I have to pay $80 per month, thus leaving me the magnificent sum of $30. If it was not that I have a small stationery store I could not live here in California off such a salary. Before the reduction in postage, I expended $1,400 in furnishing my office, and I have the name of having the finest office in the State. But alas! after the reduction came, I was cut down in all $900 per annum, or 70 dollars per month.

Then my salary was $2,100 and allowances for rent, light and fuel. Now I have the same work to do, the same number of hours to be on duty, and can not by any possible means reduce my expenses. I was greatly in hopes that we would receive some aid by the way of the passage of a bill making allowance for rent, but Congress adjourned and we all have to wait and struggle along until such time as we can make another attempt through Congress to have justice done.

Again wishing you success—and may you be the means of keeping the cause of the postmaster before those interested in it, as I now believe is your intention, I am, sir, Your friend and well wisher,

JOHN CLEMENTS, P. M.

Twenty-Five Years a Postmaster.

Ed. U. S. Mail:

Black River Falls, Wis., Oct. 3d.—Enclosed please find the amount of my subscription to your valuable paper, the first number of which has just come to hand. It is just such a publication as all those in the postal service need. I am glad its columns are open to postmasters, and I hope those who are capable will improve the opportunity to throw light on several subjects. While the service has become very efficient, yet there is much to improve, and a journal like the United States Mail is the place to ventilate it.

When my present term is out I shall have been postmaster here over twenty-five years. I ought to know more than I do, having been connected with the service so long; but what I don't know would make a big book.

What I would like to see brought out in your paper, in the strongest manner possible, is the question of salary to third class postmasters, which is referred to in your first number. I invested $1,000 in post-office fixtures for this office. The postal laws assured me that the box rents should come to me in the way of salary. The law passed March 3, 1883, fixed the adjustment of salary upon a basis of gross receipts. So the Department now gets from my boxes rents amounting to $400 per annum. This might be all right if the Department would pay me for my boxes. The first and second class offices are furnished rent, fuel, light, fixtures, and clerk hire. In third class offices the postmaster is compelled to furnish all these himself. This law should be repealed or amended so as to conform more to justice and equity. Yours truly,

JOHN PARSONS, P. M.

From a Cleveland Letter-Carrier.

Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 10.—*Dear Mail:* Your first number has been received, and to say that I am delighted with it is but very feebly expressing my satisfaction of your work. I was particularly pleased to see that you have some space and a good word for letter-carriers. They are an industrious and hard working class of public servants, and earn every dollar they receive. I hope that some of the more accomplished members of the force, who are able to express themselves in strong, plain, pure language, will take upon themselves the pleasure of presenting to your readers the interests of our department of the service. We need some leaders; some men of thought and capacity, who are able to grasp the difficulties of our profession and make an impression not only upon Congress, but upon the public sentiment of the country.

We have already accomplished substantial results, but they are not all that could be desired. Whatever benefits us as a class will benefit the public, and I take it that the Department would not oppose favorable legislation in our behalf. We are all public servants together, supposed to be working for the same object, *i. e.*, the good of the service, and we have rights which all are bound to respect.

Your paper has the true ring. It looks bright, and clean and handsome, and reads even better than it looks. It is the work of brains. Now let letter-carriers rally to your support and make your journal the expression of their thoughts.

Cordially yours,

A CARRIER.

The New Orleans Post-Office.

(Special Correspondence United States Mail.)

New Orleans, Sept. 20.—You ask for a fair and impartial report on the condition and management of the New Orleans Post-office. I can give it to you, my dear old boy, and will do any thing for you I can, but I am afraid if I were to tell you the real condition of that office you would not publish my letter, for I suppose you want to "tickle" all the postmasters in order to make them subscribe to the United States Mail. I will say all that need be said, however, in a very few words, for I am too busy to write any thing extended.

The New Orleans Post-office is, probably, the worst managed institution of the kind in the country. It is a stench in the nostrils of all decent people of either party. It has neither organization nor system, and men are employed there whose sole recommendation is their political influence. I doubt whether there are a half dozen really competent men engaged in the entire force of the office. The clerks, generally, are insolent and unaccommodating, and some of them do not appear to have brains sufficient to handle the decanters in a bar-room, much less the mails of Uncle Sam. The people have no confidence in the integrity of the office. Even the postmaster's son was caught stealing letters, and nobody would be surprised if some morning we would waken up and find that the entire building and all its contents had been surreptitiously removed to parts unknown. The postmaster is not favorably regarded by the community, and if he and all his subordinates were removed and a new set put in, there would be general rejoicing.

I could go on and give many details, but I have not the time to write them up, nor do I suppose you will have the space to give them, so I will simply let the matter go by the above general observations. I have no personal interest in the matter. I do not know the postmaster or any of his employees. I only tell you what is common report down here and what the people *think*. It is quite certain that the republican party will never flourish in this city if the administration of the post-office is any indication of what we may expect from general republican rule. We all think highly of our President, and believe him to be a good man, having a genuine interest in the efficiency of the public service; but we do not understand why he permits Mr. Merchant to continue as postmaster at New Orleans when he rests under such a cloud of charges.

Lovingly your FRIEND.

A Post-Office Ruling on Visiting Cards.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 1, 1884.

Postmaster, Cincinnati, O. *Sir.*—The following is a copy of a communication addressed to the postmaster of New Haven, Conn., under date of Jan. 23, 1884, and it is thought proper to call your particular attention to the same, as it is thought that the distinction herein presented, as to cards, will indicate the classification which should obtain under ruling of January 2d, herewith enclosed.

It appears that you have misconstrued the terms of the ruling of the Postmaster-General, issued on the 2d day of January, 1884, in requiring fourth class rates of postage on certain fancy or lithographed cards, which have been offered for mailing at your office.

Cards embellished with ornamental designs serve a separate and distinct purpose from what are known as plain visiting cards, inasmuch as they are particularly designed to instruct, amuse, and cultivate the mind or taste, and, to a considerable degree, impart general information, which requirements are stated in the ruling in question as necessary qualifications to entitle a certain class of printed matter to pass through the mails at third class rates of postage. That such cards also contain the name of some party who sees fit to adopt and use them as "visiting cards," does not destroy their use as souvenirs, or effect the postage rate upon the same; and they are, therefore, only subject to third class rates of postage.

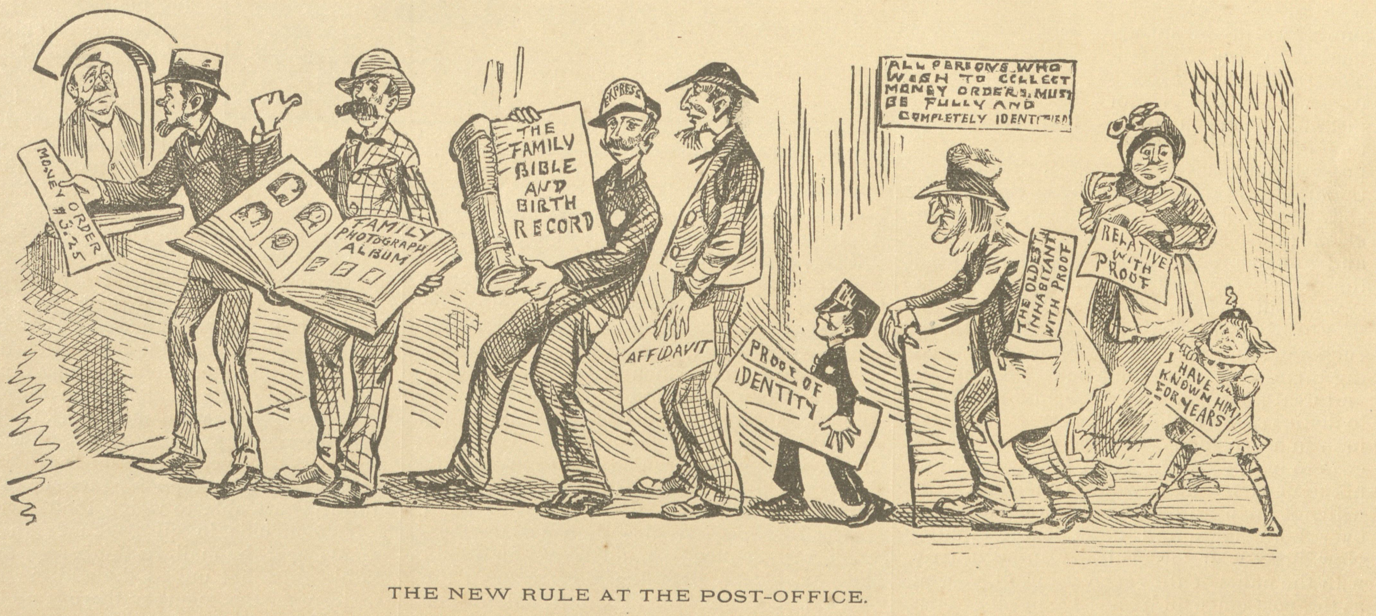
Plain visiting cards, as they serve no such purpose as attaches to the ornamental cards, are subject to fourth class rates of postage, with or without a name printed thereon.

Among the cards mailed at the Meriden (Conn.) post-office, and upon which third class rates of postage were prepaid, were some plain visiting cards; and said postmaster has this day been advised that the plain cards subjected the package to fourth class rates.

Very respectfully,

E. C. FOWLER,

For First Ass't Postmaster-General.


MONEY ORDER #3.25
FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM
THE FAMILY BIBLE AND BIRTH RECORD
EXPRESS
AFFIDAVIT
PROOF OF IDENTITY
ALL PERSONS WHO WISH TO COLLECT MONEY ORDERS, MUST BE FULLY AND COMPLETELY IDENTIFIED
THE OLDEST INHABITANT WITH PROOF
RELATIVE WITH PROOF
I HAVE KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS

THE NEW RULE AT THE POST-OFFICE.

Persons Collecting Money-Orders must be Fully and Completely Identified.

HOW TO SEND THINGS BY MAIL.

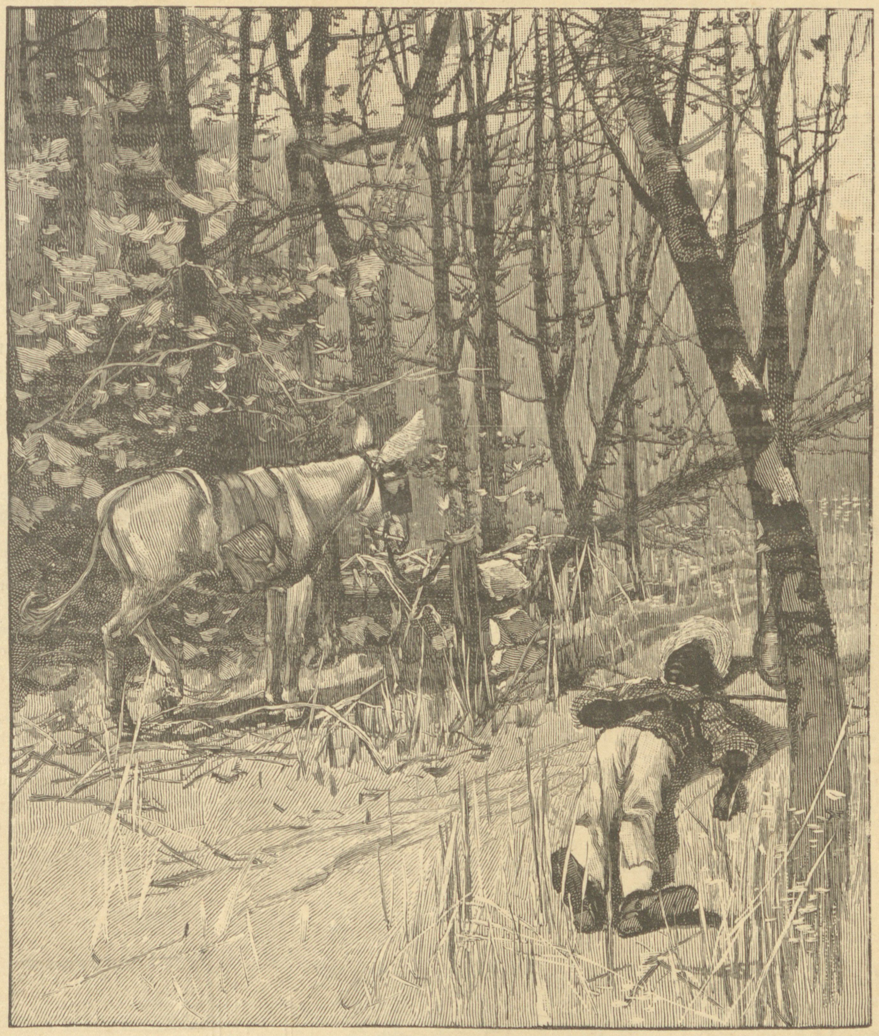
A short time since an extremely interesting article appeared in *Harper's Weekly* on the subject of the Dead Letter Office, and truly appalling were the revelations concerning the number of articles consigned to that vault of dead and buried treasures, where, like those in the tombs of Ptolemys, they remain as records, not always of human civilization, but of human foolishness; for many of those unclaimed articles might never have gone astray had they been properly secured by the sender.

There are a countless variety of articles sent by mail, from a dress to be laundried to a dainty flower; and when we consider how many careless hands there are, and thoughtless heads, too, set to this work, the wonder arises, not that so many are lost, but that so many reach their destination despite the loose manner in which they are done up and the many mistakes made in directing them.

Every one is or ought to be acquainted with the rules for sending various grades of goods through the mails. No parcels should be sealed, for they might contain contraband stuff. All writing inside is strictly interdicted, for good reasons, on all second-class mail matter. If you want to write so much as two words, you must pay letter postage for it, or be liable to do so, at any rate.

There may be a charm in evading the Post-office laws, just as there is in evading the Custom-house laws, but it is attended with the same danger of discovery and punishment.

But your parcels must be fastened securely; so you generally take a piece of twine to tie up the package, which is quite right. But you should remember that it has to go through a great many hands, and very often is shaken together with other articles in a jumble worthy of a grab-bag at a country fair. The right way properly to secure a parcel, for instance, of dry-goods, is to fold it in the smallest possible compass consistent with keeping the articles from being creased; then roll a soft piece of paper around, secured with an elastic; this will not add much to the weight, and will insure its not being soiled in case the outer wrap is disturbed; then have a good stout piece of brown paper, and fold that neatly around, turning the ends in on each side, and then up over the top, creasing them so as to make a square, compact, and neat package. Any one in doubt how to do this deftly had better observe the salesman in a dry goods store the next time she goes to buy a dress. Next take twine, but not too coarse—flax twine is the best, as it will not snap and break in tying—cross it over both sides, and tie it in the middle. Now direct your parcel clearly and distinctly with the name of the receiver in full, as well as the post-office address. Do not leave out the names of the county or the State, and in one corner write distinctly "Dry-goods only," or "No writing within." Some put in "Second-class matter only," and be sure it is true to the letter. Lastly, take two pieces of twine of equal length, one for each end, pass each of these around the narrowest end of the bundle in such a way as to catch the longest cord both above and below, and tie them securely together. Any woman who is familiar with crochet-work knows just how this is done; the object is to prevent the long strings from slipping off, which is the reason nine-tenths of the packages sent by mail get lost. The last two cords must be passed around the main one, or else it will not be secure; and pray observe that you must tie your knot very tight, first a good strong knot, then a small bow knot is advisable. For want of such care in simply tying a knot we have known handsome embroidery and delicate silk received half out of their wraps, the only wonder being that the contents ever kept company with the address at all.



FAST MAIL IN NORTH CAROLINA.

If you are sending any fragile articles, such as shells, jewelry, fans, combs, or trinkets of any sort, by mail, do not fail to put them in a box, and fill up the interstices with raw cotton, which will prevent their rattling, keep them free from the action of the atmosphere, and insure their not being broken. The same may be said of any china or glass ware, which should invariably be wrapped in cotton batting before being boxed. Indeed, we strongly recommend that all delicate articles, such as lace, buttons, ribbons, etc., should be put in a box. Put an elastic over the box to keep the cover in place even if the wrap comes loose. Then do your box up in good, strong brown paper, and tie up as before suggested. Boxes are now made so light, of such a variety of shapes and sizes, that no one can fail to find a suitable one on occasion, and really they add very little to the weight in comparison with the security of your parcel. The expense is trifling. Who would grudge a few cents in saving as many dollars, perhaps ten times as many?

Now as regards plants. The conveyance of plants is a link between distant countries. The introduction of new plants is perhaps as efficient philanthropy as can be practiced, for they advance civilization and increase our knowledge; they fertilize waste places, and beautify barren ones. As plants, seeds and cut flowers can all be carried safely and cheaply by mail, every one should, in his or her humble sphere, endeavor to do something toward spreading useful and rare plants by sending them to distant friends, to mission stations, and out-of-the-way places, if travelers or explorers, to institutions of learning and museums of natural science.

But what is the best protection for such in conveying them through the mails? If living plants, they should be very carefully spread out so that the roots should be as little disturbed as possible. Line a box of the proper size with fresh moss from the woods, free from earth or stones. Then place them on this mossy bed, and cover carefully with the same. Dampen it slightly. Close the lid of the box tight—a cigar box is best for these frail, delicate objects, as a paste-board one is best for other things. Put an elastic band round the box, tie up in stout paper with a piece of twine, and mark it distinctly as before directed, and in one corner put the words, "Plants only." When it can be procured, the Southern Spanish moss is the very best thing to use in packing plants.

Seeds need only be put in a dry, tight box, and as you can not put any writing inside, let them be done up in different colored papers. For instance, blue, seeds of larkspnr; pink, petunias; yellow, nasturtium, etc.; and then on a postal card sent *separately* designate what flowers are in such or such papers. There will then be no trouble. Or you might gum on the outside of your papers printed numbers or letters cut from newspapers—1, 2, 3, or a, b, c. for instance—and then send the glossary by mail on a postal card.

Books are often sent by mail, and they should invariably be left open on one end in order to show what they are, but it is not necessary to leave the covers of the book out so as to have their freshness rubbed off.

Many persons keep a neat pair of scales and thus are able to weigh their own mail.

To conclude, in all packages and documents sent by mail remember as an invariable rule that unless the address and the inclosure keep together there is no hope of identifying the goods sent.